Pimentel: Only 4 PPC candidates can win

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS

FEBRUARY 25, 2001 ★ 88 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 79

Nobel Foundation awards RP for Edsa

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

FOR their "wonderful gift of the spirit of Edsa to the world," the Filipino people will receive an award from the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Foundation (Nobel Foundation) and the Center for Global Non-Violence as the celebration of People Power I culminates at the Edsa Shrine today.

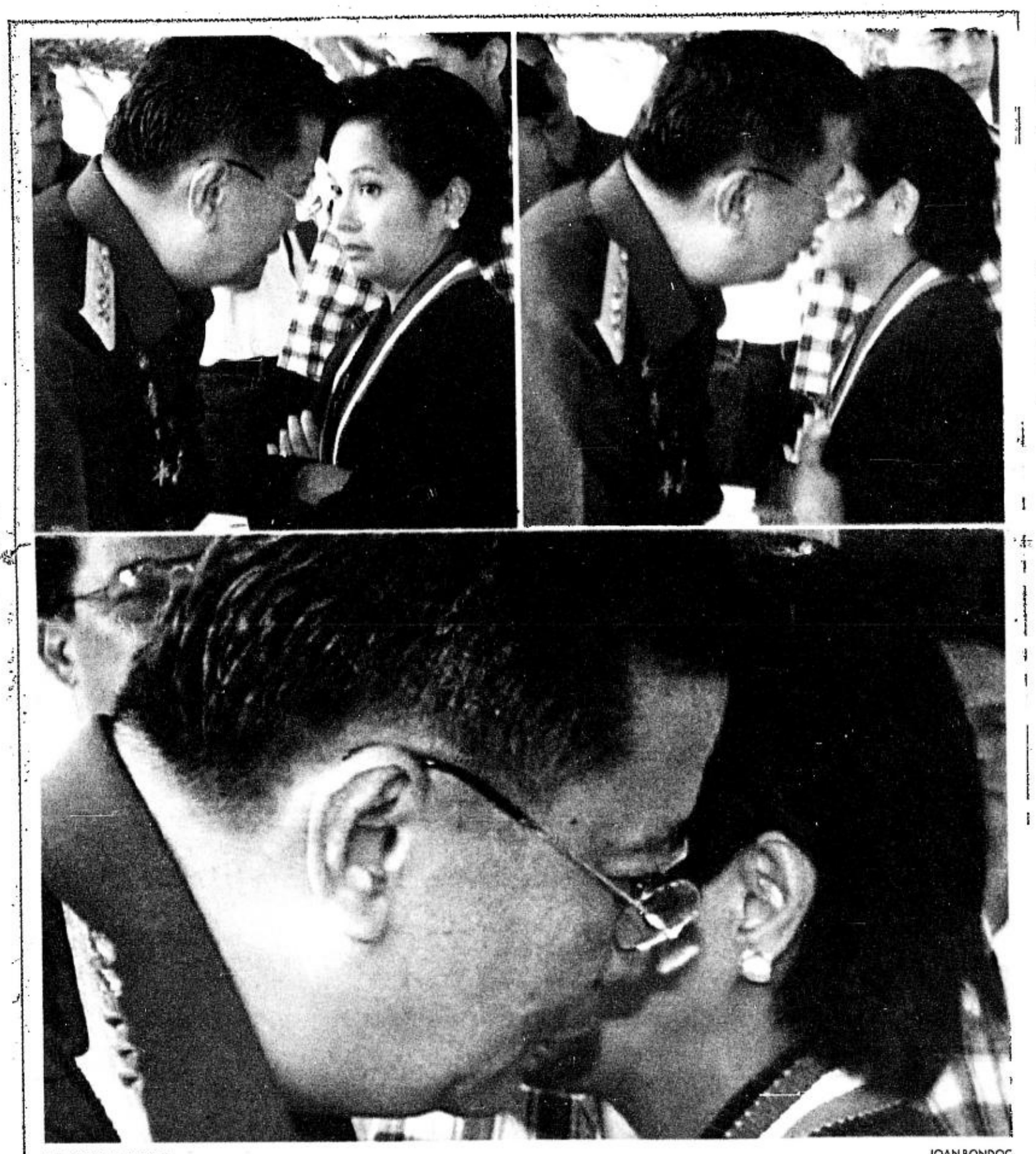
RP/ A19

TODAY IN THE INQUIRER

- Chavit Singson kicks back
- Two girls and their Ishq bags
- Sheila Coronel on the journalist's life

SINGSON

Saguisag: Probe Gloria-AFP 'plot'



JOAN BONDOC

IS THAT SO?
THE AFP Vice Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, gets the ear of the President during rites honoring the Unknown Soldier at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

GMA: I talked to Reyes thru emissary

BY CATHY C. YAMSUAN

LAWYER Rene Saguisag wants Executive Secretary Renato de Villa to look into President Macapagal-Arroyo's "astonishing acknowledgement" that she had been meeting with five ranking military and police officers since last year when she was still a member of the Estrada Cabinet.

In a one-page letter dated Feb. 24, a copy of which he faxed to the INQUIRER yesterday, the former senator told De Villa that with her disclosure, Ms Macapagal acknowledged that she had been "plotting" with the help of the five officers "to oust" then President Joseph Estrada.

Saguisag urged the executive secretary to "kindly start court martial proceedings" against the officers, "if warranted" and "before things get out of hand."

"We may now have the most undisciplined, unprofessional and ambitious military organization in the whole world, very different from what you had wanted to have when you were still in it," he said.

De Villa could not be reached for comment.

Saguisag, along with former law dean Pacifico Agabin, is representing the disgraced former President in questioning the legitimacy of the Macapagal presidency before the Supreme Court.

He was reacting to Ms Macapagal's surprise announcement Wednesday night that since January 2000, she had been in touch with five different groups in the police and military that did not know about one another but were apparently disgruntled with Estrada's leadership.

"Please start an investigation into the astonishing acknowledgment by Mrs. Macapagal-Arroyo that more

SAGUISAG/ A18

Inspiring, inimitable, inseparable

BY DONNA S. CUETO

INSTALLED by a popular uprising, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday praised People Power I and II, and acknowledged that her administration was under the scrutiny of Filipinos who "have raised their expectations of governance."

"Today, the people have a more critical attitude and shorter patience," she said in a speech at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, hinting that People Power III was possible if conditions called for it.

"For the good of democracy, they not only expect good governance, they demand it, and rightly so. This is the essence of a working robust democracy," said Ms Macapagal, who will, for the first time as President, lead the anniversary rites of the 1986 revolt at the Edsa Shrine today.

She said People Power I and II were "inseparable" and "sequential phases" of the country's maturing democracy.

"Edsa I was a revolution for the restoration of freedom and democracy, while Edsa II was for justice and good governance," she said.

In a separate televised message on the 15th anniversary of the revolt that toppled the dictatorship of the late Ferdinand Marcos, the President said that the world had been inspired by the Filipinos' show

INSPIRING/ A19

Edsa I, II: Lessons and differences

BY SALVADOR "DOY" LAUREL

(Editor's Note: The author was in the thick of the anti-Marcos struggle throughout the dictatorship. He headed the United Opposition whose standard bearer in the 1986 "snap" election was Cory Aquino. He ran and won as Vice President.)

TODAY, Feb. 25, 2001, marks the 15th anniversary of the first bloodless revolt in Philippine history. It resulted in the dismantling of an unwanted regime and placed in power the widow of martyred Ninoy Aquino.

Last month, we witnessed another bloodless revolt—which also resulted in the ouster of another unwanted regime and the assumption into power of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Although similarly impelled by people power, the two historic events differ in many respects.

EDSA I/ A18

'Go Count the People'

BY CARLITO PABLO

AROUND noon on Jan. 20, two F-5 fighter jets streaked through the sky over the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong, prompting not only the multitudes gathered there but Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was about to take her oath as President, to ask in some alarm: "Who is that? Who is that?"

"*Sa atin yan* (That's ours). *Si* General Yap!" a military officer reassured Ms Macapagal.

One of the F-5's—the most advanced fighter jet in the country's hangars—was piloted by no less than the second highest ranking officer of the Philippine Air Force, Maj. Gen Adelberto Yap.

While the F-5's were making passes over the Edsa Shrine, four MG-520 attack helicopters flew over thousands of demonstrators who had marched to Mendiola, near Malacañang, as if providing air cover.

"We were showing support for the people," Yap said, confirming the role he played with other Air Force officers in the plan to withdraw their backing for then President Joseph Estrada.

The flight of the F-5's and MG-520's was supposed to have been the crowning might of "Oplan Go Count the People," the operational plan drawn up by military officers identified with Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa.

"Perhaps it's time to reveal the name of the plan. 'It's Oplan Go Count the People.' 'Go' stands for God. 'Count' stands for Country'," said one officer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hatched in the last week of November after a series of meetings with the United Opposition as well as business groups, the plan revolved around a people-led, military-supported uprising against the Estrada administration.

Aware that they would be violating the Constitution and breaking the chain of command by opposing their President and Commander in Chief, the officers found inspiration in the words of Napoleon Bonaparte, one of the planners told the INQUIRER.

According to Napoleon, "he who saves the nation violates no law."

The plan was purportedly presented to leading figures of the opposition in a candle-lit meeting inside a warehouse controlled by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. Military sources requested that the names of the participants of the meeting be withheld.

A number of "D-Days" were designated—Dec. 8, anytime between Dec. 18 and 22, and Jan. 13—but

GO/ A18

THE FREEDOM, the fun, the INQUIRER on the day of deliverance, Feb. 25, 1986 when people rushed from Edsa and took over the Palace in jubilation. And they did it without violence.

Second FRONT PAGE

Only 4 PPC bets can win–Pimentel

PIMENTEL

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

SENATE President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday he believes the pro-Estrada candidates for senator in the coming polls would win more Senate seats than the administration's slate.

Pimentel said he thinks the opposition will corner six of the 13 contested seats, independents would get three, while the administration party would end up with only four seats.

He declined, however, to name the winning bets, except for one, because he said he did not want to look "as if I am endorsing them."

Pimentel told reporters at the weekly Sulo Hotel press conference in Quezon City that former first lady Dr. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito would win a Senate seat because the people sympathize with her for her years of suffering as the wife of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Mrs. Ejercito is running with her husband's party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), which is in a coalition with the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP).

Throughout most of her marriage, she has been portrayed as a martyr-wife because of her husband's open liaisons with other women.

On his prediction of an opposition majority, Pimentel said, "I'm not worried about this (return to power of Estrada allies), as long as they stick to the electoral process."

"(But) definitely, it (victory) will be vindication for Mr. Estrada," he said.

Pimentel noted that the administration candidates—running under the People Power Coalition banner—were not campaigning as a team.

"I worry that when they campaign as individuals, there is no unity," Pimentel said.

He said his party, PDP-Laban, is campaigning for four of the PPC's 13 senatorial candidates—congressmen Joker Arroyo, Wig-berto Tañada and Manuel Villar and reelectionist Sergio Osmeña III.

The other candidates of the PPC are Ralph Recto, Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan, Juan Flavier, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, Franklin Drilon, Ernesto Herrera, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Winnie Monsod and Roberto Pagdanganan.

ROCO

Repudiating Pimentel's forecast, Education Secretary Raul Roco, a former senator, said in Daet, Camarines Norte Thursday Bicolanos would vote 13-0 in favor of the administration's senatorial candidates.

Roco, who was campaigning with PPC candidates, said that in 1998, Bicolanos rejected Estrada when they gave him only 15 percent of the vote for president, and they would do so again by not voting for his candidates on May 14.

About 3,000 persons gathered at the Daet Sports Complex to hear PPC candidates promise them good government.

Recto, who introduced himself as the grandson of nationalist Claro M. Recto, told the audience his wife, actress and mayor Vilma Santos, could not come because she had to take care of their baby.

Pangilinan introduced himself by saying he was the husband of popular personality, Sharon Cuneta, and that many people thought he was not handsome.

But when people saw him in person, he said, they would tell him he was handsome after all.

The candidate who drew the biggest laughs was diminutive Sen. Juan Flavier, who said that his being 4'11" tall actually meant he is "four feet on the outside and 11 millimeters on the inside." *With Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LDP bets chide Gloria

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo should stop campaigning for her candidates and instead focus on the country's economic recovery problems, senatorial bets of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa demanded yesterday.

"There are so many things that cry for urgent attention. So many pressing national concerns are waiting presidential action. Ms. Arroyo should focus on these things and not on partisan politics," said the candidates.

The LDP said the President can leave her candidates alone and focus on her job and commitment to be a "good president."

It said that the surge in major crimes, the infighting within the ranks of the military, the general listlessness of the economy, and the many advocacies from the civil society deserve the full attention of Ms. Arroyo.

The LDP candidates have repeatedly said that they would help in the national reconstruction program of the Macapagal-Arroyo administration should they win in the May elections.

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3 rebels killed; ceasefire broken

ZAMBOANGA—Government soldiers and Muslim rebels on Saturday accused each other of launching attacks in Mindanao despite the government's declared unilateral ceasefire.

The military said Saturday that soldiers killed three rebels while repelling an attack by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in a 15-minute gun battle on Friday.

Military spokesman Col. Fredesvindo Covarrubias said 30 separatists attacked a patrol near Dapiawan village. He said the separatists fled when their three colleagues fell.

"Guerrillas have been attacking government patrols in Mindanao, particularly in the central region, where there is still a huge presence of MILF forces," Covarrubias said. "Villagers have been complaining of harassment. They have been seeking our protection from rebels who are extorting money from them, who are robbing them of their farm animals."

But Ghazali Jaafar, the MILF vice chair, said Saturday his men "are being hunted like wild animals by troops."

In a telephone interview from a Mindanao hideout, Jaafar accused the army of provoking clashes despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration Tuesday of a ceasefire in a bid to restart peace talks.

The rebels have not declared their own ceasefire but said they would only fight if attacked.

Peace talks collapsed last year after then President Joseph Estrada ordered a massive military campaign that captured at least 45 MILF camps in Mindanao.

Jaafar reiterated his group's demand that the government withdraw from the camps before any peace talks.

"These MILF encampments, which the military had forcibly taken from us, are actually Muslim communities and must be returned immediately," Jaafar said. "Many Muslims were displaced when the military took over these encampments and established their presence there."

The government has said it will not return them.

While the government makes peace overtures toward the MILF, it continues an offensive against Abu Sayyaf, the smaller but more extreme of the two Muslim rebel groups in Mindanao.

The military said it killed several Abu Sayyaf members were killed and 15 infantrymen were wounded in a government assault on a mountain stronghold on a southern island.

A military press release said the army launched the assault on some 300 Abu Sayyaf separatists on an island of Sulu province, some 950 kilometers south of Manila.

The release said intercepted Abu Sayyaf radio messages indicated that several rebels died and more were injured in the fighting.

The government has a policy of no negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf, calling its members mere bandits. The group kidnapped a number of foreigners last year, then released most of them, reportedly for large ransoms. *AP*

MILF lawyer bares formula for peace

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE NEXT defense secretary and Armed Forces chief of staff should not have had any direct involvement with the previous administration's all-out war policy in Mindanao, a lawyer for the Moro National Liberation Front said yesterday.

Macapanton Y. Abbas Jr. told reporters at a Sulo Hotel press forum that this was necessary to make sure that the MILF would return to the negotiating table.

"If you have a secretary of defense who has been identified with the prosecution of the war, or have a chief of staff who was pro-war under Estrada, I don't think they (MILF) will have enough confidence to go back to negotiations," Abbas said.

He noted that the MILF leadership has not appointed a negotiating team for the peace talks because it was waiting for the President to announce her choice to fill the two top security posts.

The administration is believed to be considering for the defense post the incumbent AFP chief of staff Angelo Reyes, who led the Armed Forces during military offensives against the Muslim rebels last year.

"The most prominent figure in peace talks would be the Secretary of National Defense and the Armed Forces chief because they are the ones who can make the decisions on the ground," Abbas said.

He noted that despite the government's announcement of a ceasefire, some 8,000 people have fled their homes in Central Mindanao because of military operations in the past two weeks.

"They should have a mechanism for enforcing peace before we can talk about other substantive issues," Abbas said.

But Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said in the same forum that what is vital are the proposals that government would present to the rebels.

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Jaime Cardinal Sin

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In being our modern-day prophet he suffers. He is irreverently branded many names. He is ridiculed for upsetting people in power. He is maligned for bringing down to the reality of everyday life, the Good News of our faith. Through all this he fearlessly stands his ground, even if his is a lonely voice crying out in the wilderness. This is because he stands on holy ground and his mind and heart are fixed on the people he loves, the flock God has given him to shepherd.

A heroic and grace-filled prophet is rare, like a precious stone mined from the deep. But God has blessed us and put a prophet in our midst.

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On this day of commemoration and remembrance of our country's liberation from tyranny, we bow our heads in thanksgiving and overwhelming gratitude to God for this prophet in our midst, Jaime L. Cardinal Sin.

He is, to us, the greatest Cardinal in the world. He is our pastor and friend; our patriarch and brother; a priest and a patriot. A prophet

JAIME L. CARDINAL SIN
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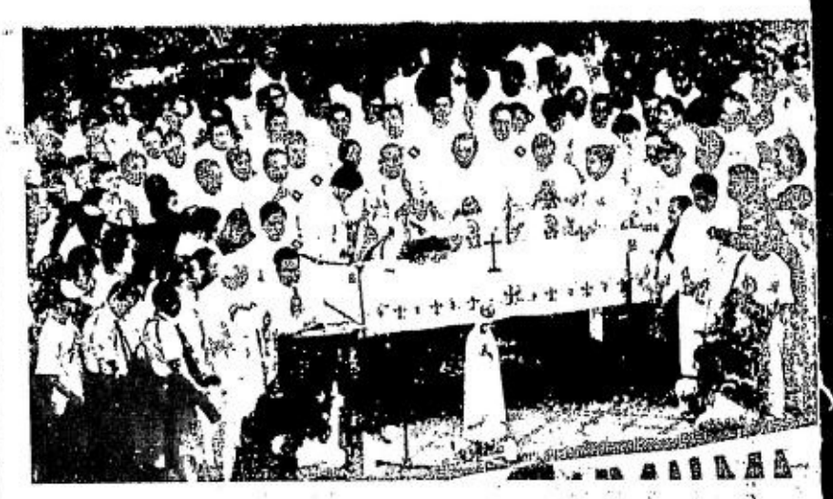

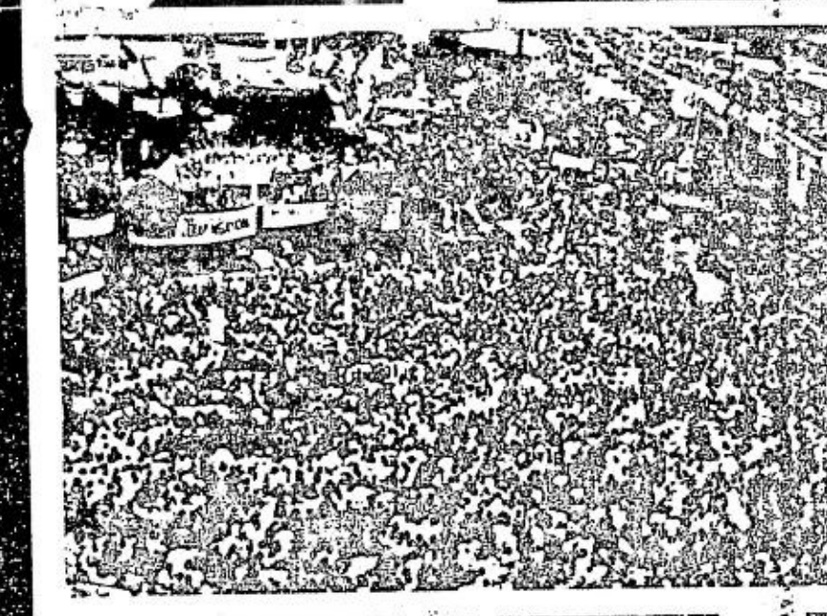

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Domingo lifted painting from mere craft to the level of art when he started the first art school in the Philippines in his spacious home in Tondo. In 1828, he was appointed director of the Academia de Dibujo established by the Real Sociedad Economica de Amigos del Pais which was fused with his own art school.

Valdes, who will give the talk and slide presentation, is a direct descendant of Domingo. Her great grandfather, Roman Ongpin, married Pascuala Domingo, a daughter of Severo Domingo, one of Damian's children who was also a painter.

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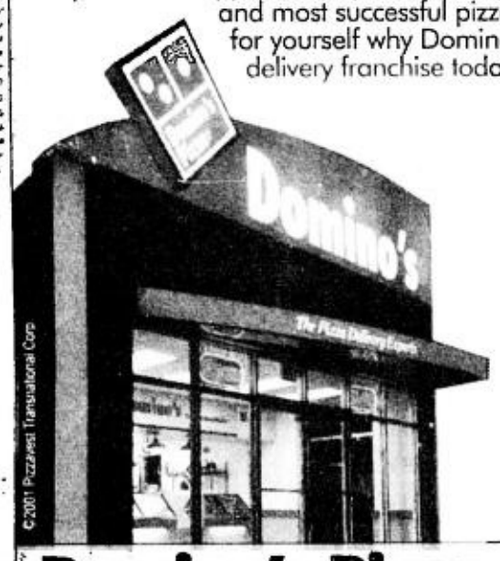

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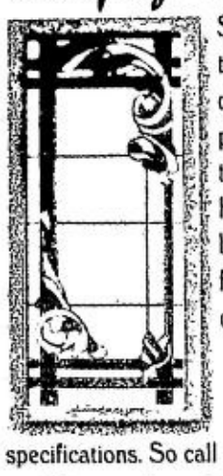

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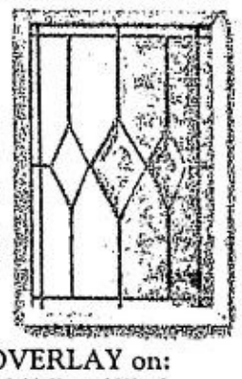

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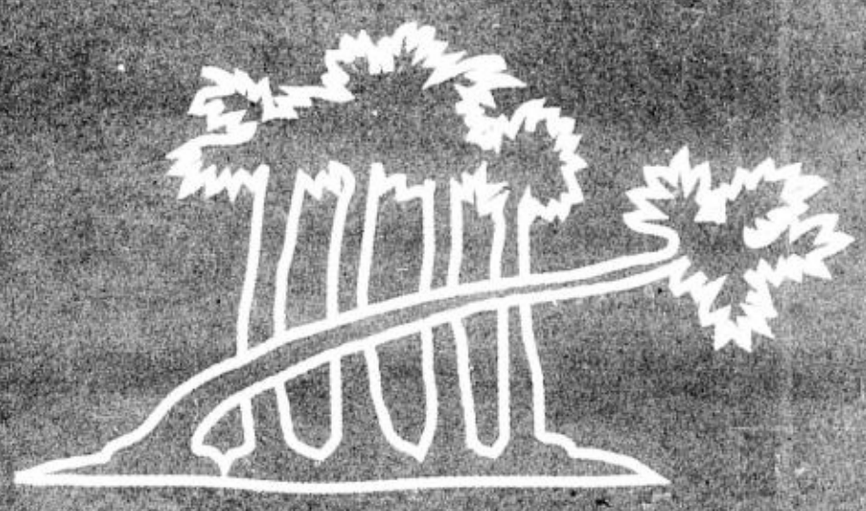

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Mike volunteers to lawyer for free

BY JEROME ANING

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo has a new job.

Calling it "a dream come true," Mr. Arroyo took his oath yesterday as a "volunteer lawyer" for the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Mr. Arroyo's first case under the VACC's "Adopt A Victim Program" is that of Kristine Kaya Lazaro, the little girl who was hit in the head by a stray bullet as she watched television in her Palanan, Makati home in July 2000.

ARROYO

Investigation resulted in the arrest of PO1 Redentor Coloma of the city police who allegedly fired his gun in the air during a nearby drinking spree.

The 4-year-old Lazaro survived but is undergoing therapy. The case against Coloma is pending before the city prosecutor's office.

Mr. Arroyo, a senior partner at the Arroyo, Barin, Villanueva and Associates law firm, said he will actively handle Lazaro's case for at least 30 days, after which an associate will take over.

In brief remarks, Mr. Arroyo said he was eager to help VACC's cause and he hoped to help bring justice to crime victims seeking the organization's help.

The First Gentleman took his oath along with 14 other lawyers at the Pope Pius XI Catholic Center in Ermita, Manila.

The oath-taking brought to 40 the number of lawyers who have joined the program.

Sixteen of the volunteers, including Mr. Arroyo, have been given cases, all of them involving heinous crimes.

VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said Arroyo had expressed a desire to be a volunteer lawyer last year, prior to his wife's assumption to the presidency.

VACC was one of the private complainants in the impeachment case against President Joseph Estrada which eventually led to his ouster.

The group is pursuing corruption and plunder cases against the former president with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Jimenez said Mr. Arroyo will not be involved in any of the cases against Estrada.

"We hope to help the wheels of justice roll (faster) in the country and (to) reduce the voluminous number of cases burdening our courts, now that we have pro bono lawyers," Jimenez told reporters.

After President Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn into office, one of her first official acts was to draft Administrative Order No. 1 which prohibits her relatives from working and having any dealings at all with the government.

At the time, the First Gentleman said he was giving up his regular lawyering work and would look for volunteer and charity causes to support instead.

SENATE candidate former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada is all smiles as she presses bodies at Farmers' Market in Cubao, Quezon City yesterday. Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he owed Ejercito no apology in claiming she had an unexplainable P110 million in the bank. EDWIN BACASMAS

Loi 'not telling truth' on accounts, says Ani

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

SAYING he had no reason to apologize, Ombudsman Aniano "Ani" Desierto yesterday said former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito "was not exactly telling the truth" when she denied she had as much as P110 million in her Citibank NA accounts.

Desierto said bank records turned over by officials of Citibank to his office early this week clearly showed that Ejercito had in fact deposited a total of P111,639,192 in three accounts with the Citibank branch at the Virramall shopping center in Greenhills, San Juan.

In fact, he said, the Metrobank check No. 0001388 worth P8 million issued by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Singson, the "Juetengate" witness, was deposited in her first account at the bank, Account No. 0000166820 (under the Peso Citi Savings Account Plus), on Oct. 4, 1999.

Singson had testified before the Senate that the money came from "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

Thus, Desierto said, he could not heed Sen. Blas Ople's advice that he apologize to Ejercito for falsely accusing her of withdrawing P110 million from the bank early this month.

On Friday, the Senate President Pro Tempore, a known ally of ousted President Joseph Estrada, called on Desierto to make amends with senatorial candidate Ejercito, who denied she withdrew the amount on Feb. 1.

Desierto added: "It is unfortunate that I cannot grant the request of the venerable senator. I have nothing to apologize for because I only reported precisely what the bank reported to me."

He pointed out that some figures, particularly dates, might have been "misinterpreted." But he said, "The fact is, we reported what actually appeared in the figures, which are in a summary form."

He clarified that he never said that Ejercito made a one-time withdrawal of P110 million after the Bureau of Internal Revenue ordered the freezing of the bank accounts of Estrada.

"There was no transaction after the BIR issued a constructive distraint. I did not say that. What I said was the P110 million represented the total amount she withdrew from the bank from July 1, 1998 until Feb. 1."

Desierto said Citibank officials could not deny that Ejercito deposited a total of P110,579,894.28 in her first account, which was opened on July 1, 1998, or Day One of the Estrada presidency.

He said bank records also attested that Ejercito opened two more accounts on that day—Account No. 0016016343 (under the bank's Peso Maxi accounts) and Account No. 00197653 (under the Peso Citi Savings Account Plus accounts).

He said P116.6 million was the total amount of Ejercito's deposits in her three accounts with the bank from the time the accounts were opened until they were updated on Feb. 1.

Only P1.4 million was now left in the accounts, Desierto said, as reflected in the latest statement of the bank.

He said bank records also showed no withdrawals were made since Jan. 1 this year.

Desierto disclosed that there were many withdrawals and deposits made from the time the accounts were opened but the last withdrawal on the first account was made on Dec. 4. "She made two withdrawals of exactly the same amount—P52,462," he said.

He also disclosed the last transaction on the three accounts occurred on Jan. 15 when Ejercito deposited a P15,000-check into her first account.

Citibank officials claimed Desierto might have misread Ejercito's bank records, saying the former first lady did not withdraw P110 million on Feb. 1.

The bank officials had feared that they could be cited for contempt by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which ordered the freezing of Estrada's Citibank accounts after it issued a constructive distraint on Jan. 23.

Desierto said the Citibank records submitted in the course of the ongoing fact-finding investigation of the Ombudsman "did not specifically include data on the withdrawals from her first account."

However, he said, "the same reflected deposits made, which started on July 1, 1998 until January 2001 and the balance as of Feb. 1. The total amount withdrawn can, therefore, be deduced by deducting the balance of the account from the total amount deposited."

The records showed Ejercito opened the Peso Citi SA Plus, her first account, with a P10,000-check. On the same date, she deposited another check worth P9,000.

The following day, she deposited another P5,000-check; P109,000 and P14,000-checks on July 3; a P100,000-check on July 6; P660,000- and P100,000-checks on July 10; and P500,000 cash on July 13.

Also on July 13, Ejercito deposited five checks in the amounts of P144,562 P280,000 P268,400 P73,360, and P20,000.

Restrictions on Chinese hurting tourism–Gordon

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon yesterday called on immigration authorities to relax visa restrictions on Chinese nationals, saying Asean neighbors had a better time than the country attracting Chinese tourists.

At the same time, Gordon announced that the Department of Tourism would especially promote Intramuros as a tourist must-see, being the "most visible symbol of our national heritage."

Gordon told travel and tourism industry leaders he would seek "easier visa rules for Chinese nationals who comprise one-fifth of the world's population."

The immigration bureau has imposed stricter screening rules on Chinese nationals who apply for tourist visas following findings that a high number of Chinese "tourists" end up staying in the country illegally.

Gordon said that instead of restricting Chinese tourists, the immigration bureau should simply "improve its enforcement" of laws against illegal aliens.

"The smart players of world tourism are preparing for the inflow of Chinese tourists while we let this market opportunity pass because we are scared our law enforcement would not be able to handle them," Gordon said.

He urged immigration authorities "to conquer our fear and improve enforcement of immigration law."

Gordon said the Philippines had slid to fifth in the ranking of most visited Asean countries with 2.17 million visitors in 1999. 'Balikbayan' accounted for around 600,000 of the figure, he said.

In the same period, he said, Thailand received 8.7 million foreign visitors; Malaysia, 7.9 million; Singapore, 7 million; and Indonesia, 4.7 million.

Gordon said the DOT would pursue "market-specific campaigns" aimed at potential tourists from Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, the United States and Europe.

The department planned to put up "specialization desks" for each of these tourist groups, he said.

In the same meeting, Gordon disclosed that Intramuros, the historic walled city during the Spanish colonial period, would be especially promoted as a national heritage site.

He said he wanted to see tourists "walking securely in Intramuros and having a sensory experience of the Old World in the heart of Manila."

He added, "Fort Santiago and Intramuros will rise as the most visible symbols of our national heritage."

Gordon also urged the private sector to share in the marketing costs of tourism promotion and to come up with more creative tour packages whose prices were more competitive.

Last year, he said, the Philippines spent $637,000 for international tourism promotions, which was only two percent of Thailand's tourism advertising budget of $31.54 million for the year.

Singapore spent $43 million for tourism advertising last year.

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PART OF THE JOB JOAN BONDOC

President Macapagal-Arroyo is also no slouch when it comes to touching base with the people as demonstrated by this toothy huddle with women veterans who attended the Libingan ng Mga Bayani rites yesterday.

Biazon to Wong: Stop making sweeping statements, charge specific individuals

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA AND JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday said Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong should file charges against specific individuals responsible for alleged irregularities in the Philippine Navy instead of making sweeping statements that threaten the stability of the entire Armed Forces.

Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense and security and a former AFP chief of staff, said allegations that Wong had been forced to ensign to prevent the Marines from being used to mount a coup attempt against President Macapagal-Arroyo are uncalled for and destabilizing.

In Davao City, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado yesterday warned that it would be a mistake to conclude that the Marines could be instigated to stage a coup over issues concerning Wong, the resigned Navy flag officer in command.

Biazon said the only "fair thing" that Wong can do is to charge those responsible for the alleged irregularities in the procurement of Philippine Navy equipment.

"If he really wants to do something, he should prepare to file charges against the wrongdoers instead of making these sweeping accusations," Biazon said.

Biazon said Wong would not have "gotten into trouble" if he had initiated charges against the wrongdoers instead of berating even the foot soldiers.

"I think the Admiral is trying to do the right thing but in the Wong way which is wrong," Biazon said.

Biazon, the first Navy commander to become chief of staff, said Wong's "leadership style" was resented by the Marines. He noted that Wong had problems not just with the Marines and the Philippine fleet but also with other support units in the Navy.

"He probably has the best of intentions but as I said, he manifested this in the Wong way which is what got him into trouble," Biazon said.

Biazon said Wong could file charges in the Navy, the general headquarters or even the Ombudsman if he has evidence.

AFTER LAARNI

Erap's daughter hounded at Naia

BY TJ BURGONIO

LOPEZ

ALERTED by the controversial return of Laarni Enriquez, airport authorities closely monitored the arrival of Jackie Ejercito-Lopez at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, it was learned yesterday.

Lopez, daughter of ousted President Joseph Estrada, flew in from Hong Kong with husband Beaver Lopez, scion of the Lopez clan, and their baby aboard Philippine Airlines around 10:55 p.m. Friday.

Airport general manager Edgardo Manda turned up the Naia terminal 2 ostensibly to check if the young Lopez couple was going through the usual procedures of checking out. While at this, he maintained a safe distance from them.

As if this was not enough, a staff of the Manila International Airport Authority took a video footage of the Lopezes from the time they debarked until they boarded a waiting van outside the arrival area. Naia 2 is not equipped with a closed circuit TV.

Observers noted that airport officials wanted to prevent a repeat of the controversy that attended the arrival of Enriquez, one of Estrada's mistresses, who had been escorted out of the airport without first clearing with the immigration counter last Sunday.

Jake Acuña and Ernesto Yabut, alleged aides of Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Vicente Sotto III who had been caught on the CCTV escorting the former starlet, have been banned from the airport. They are also facing charges of usurpation of authority.

Lopez, the second of Estrada's three children by former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, said that, when she called the deposed president, her father had been in high spirits in the past few days.

She hinted that her father might have been heartened by the Supreme Court's recent statement that there was no vacancy in the presidency when Chief Justice Hilario Davide administered oath to incoming President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo following a four-day people's revolt last month.

"My father is the President legally," she told reporters.

Like her father, the usually quiet Lopez also vowed to campaign for her mother, who leads the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino senatorial ticket under the banner "Puwersa ng Masa."

She said she would start joining her campaign sorties a week from now.

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'All Filipinos should reject People Power 3'

BY DONNA S. CUETO

OUSTED President Joseph Estrada yesterday termed as sickening the threat of a People Power 3 against the Supreme Court to pressure it into favoring the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency.

Estrada said the Filipino people should not allow this to happen.

In a statement, Estrada, who has petitioned the high tribunal questioning the legitimacy of Ms Macapagal's presidency, said it was "sickening that the forces responsible for installing his Vice President into power would not even respect the independence of the Supreme Court."

"Now, they are again putting the law into their hands and are threatening the Supreme Court out last resort to correct the injustice that had been committed against the nation and its people," he said.

"Our people are not blind to their flagrant violation of the Constitution committed in unrelenting and disturbing succession," Estrada added.

The former president repeated his claim that those who staged People Power 2 were just a "handful of elite businessmen, traditional politicians and leftist elements who have no respect for the Constitution and the rule of law."

Estrada also recalled how these forces "turned the multiple plunder charges into a daily entertainment fare in radio, TV, newspapers as well as in political rallies just to destroy me, my family and friends."

"It's really sickening that they are again convicting me before the bar of public opinion using these plunder charges which have no specifics or basis in facts as to when, where and how they were committed," he said.

"We cannot allow these elements to push us further against the wall. They cannot be allowed to destroy our democratic institutions and turn our country into a banana republic," he said. "In the final analysis, our nation and our people will be the victims of these evil schemes and machination."

People urged to preserve Edsa 2 gains

EDSA 2 which led to the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada has revived the people's involvement in governance and nation-building, former Speaker Manny Villar said yesterday.

"Because of Edsa 2, there is a renewed consciousness among Filipinos. Civil society groups and ordinary folks now want to be involved," said Villar on the eve of the anniversary of first people power revolution that ended the 20-year rule of former President Marcos.

"I never saw so many people think and act in a manner that they deemed to be good for the country," he added.

Villar said the original Edsa Revolt, similar to the second one, empowered Filipinos and made their voices be heared.

"It made people want to participate in determining their future," he said.

He appealed anew to Filipinos to unite behind the new administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo in order to maximize and preserve the gains of Edsa 2.

"The fight is far from over, there are still many problems that we as a people have to overcome. We have to push further," said Villar, who was one of the key figures of the impeachment process. Villar fast-tracked the passage of the articles of impeachment to the Senate from the House of Representatives.

Villar is running for Senator under the People Power Coalition under a platform of providing mass housing and employment to Filipinos.

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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-48, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

Vol. 16 No. 79
ISSN 0116-2642

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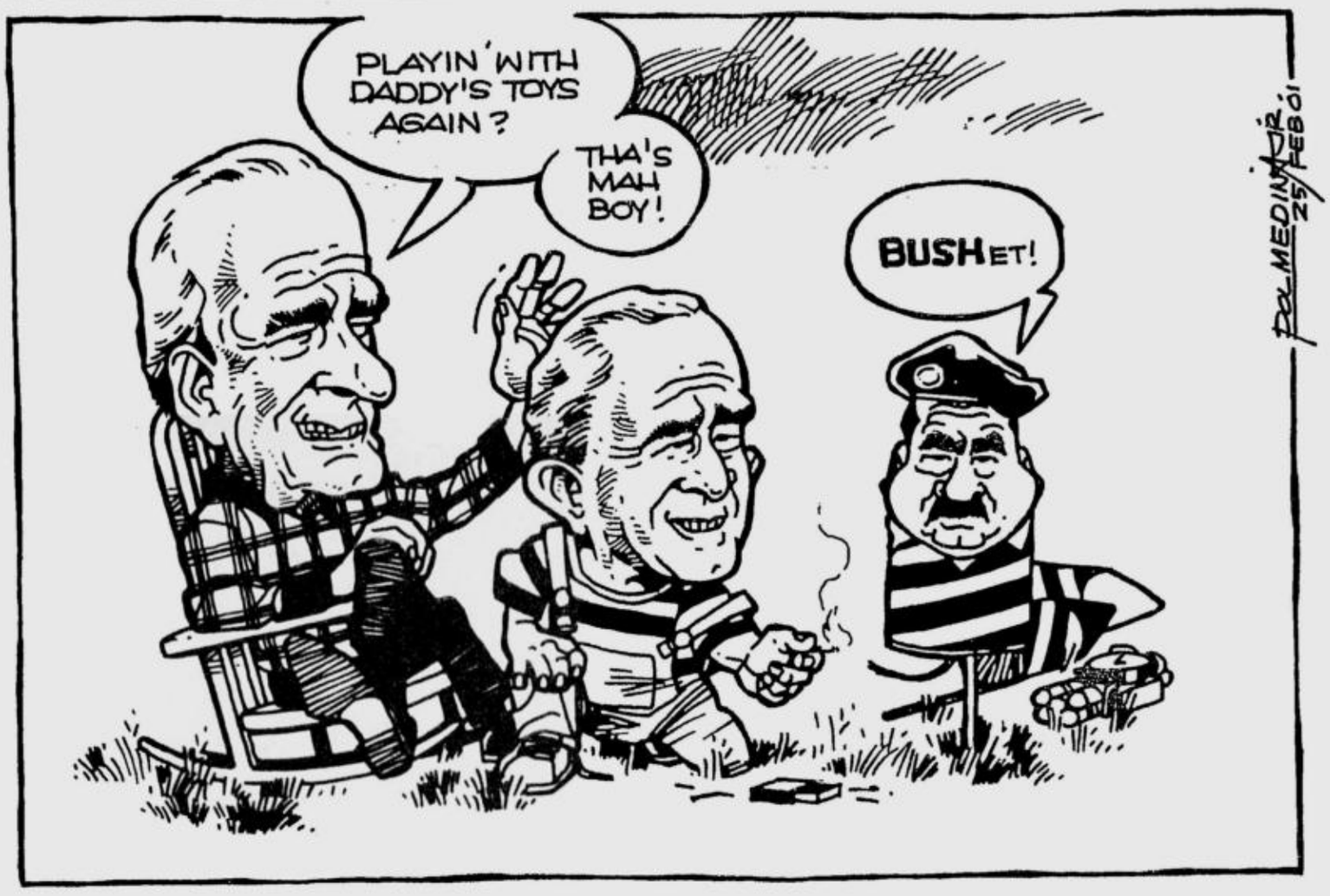

Edsa alive

EDITORIALS

THE YEARLY celebration of the 1986 Revolution puts on a new sheen this year. In the run-up to the celebration, Filipinos took to the streets again, massed at the Catholic Shrine that was built to commemorate the 1986 incident, held vigil and colorful protest actions against threats of retaliation, forced the ouster of a corrupt president, and installed his constitutional successor. The revolution reaffirmed the legacy of its 1986 parent and consolidated the gains of people empowerment.

It couldn't have come at a better time. Despite the yearly February ritual, the 1986 incident had receded from memory, buried under a coastal shelf of dissipation, disenchantment and sheer distraction. There was a feeling that the governments that followed after Edsa squandered the opportunities and remarkable sense of possibilities that were unleashed by the four-day uprising. There was a feeling that after the pinnacle of Edsa, everything was downhill since.

The most prevalent and current interpretation of its cause—as a miracle—was its fitting denouement. It was canonized by popular acclaim as divinely caused, a supernatural phenomenon. Indeed, because the situation had polarized in 1986, the Edsa incident came like a *deus ex machina*. But in ascribing its authorship to providence, the people did not feel responsible about nurturing it. Its sustainability was left to the fates.

Edsa II proved that despite the historical amnesia and the disillusionment, the spirit of the first Edsa was still alive in many people. Despite being nearly choked by the weeds of cynicism and self-interest, the Edsa spirit survived. Considering the success of Edsa II, the spirit has clearly flourished and prevailed.

The spirit is particularly alive and well among the youth. It is said that what differentiates the 1986 and the 2001 revolutions was the large number of youth protesters in the latter incident. This shows that despite the woefully inadequate treatment of Edsa in our shallow and error-fraught history textbooks, young people have deepened their knowledge of the 1986 event, enough to imbibe its spirit and keep it alive.

However, it is wrong to unduly romanticize the youth. To be sure, despite the overwhelming evidence of his corruption, many young people sided with the deposed president, including young congressmen and local executives who clearly interpreted public service as a private demesne. A lot of young people also participated in the 1986 event, which was a far more complex matter than its 2001 offspring. We must also remember that Edsa I was paved by the martyrdom of many people, old and young alike. Compared with 1986, Edsa II was a picnic.

While Edsa II has given new luster to Edsa I, the latter should stand as a singular moment in our people's history. It is one of perhaps only two or three moments in the 20th century when Filipinos came together as a people (the other two being the war against American imperialist adventure and the resistance against the Japanese invaders). In fact, it is in a class of its own because while the conflicts with the Americans and Japanese ended with mixed results for us, Edsa was a categorical victory. As a people, we will be defined by that wonderful moment in the latter half of the last century. It is a credit to the energies it has unleashed that it seems to have defined us again as a people last month when we had barely entered the new century.

Phenomenon

EDSA I was not only a singular moment of our people's history. It was also a singular moment in world history. Don't let the critics fool you.

That the two Edsas came one after another in just 15 years may have confirmed the cynics' worst views of the Filipinos as fundamentally ungovernable and mercurial, prone to *juramentado* fits and changes of government and charters, depending on the whim of the moment and the caprice of the cosmos.

But not many of them will deny that between the two revolutions came a host of other uprisings worldwide that owed their inspiration and drive to the tectonic force released by the Filipinos' peaceful revolution of 1986: South Korea, Pakistan, Poland and the other communist states of Eastern Europe, and even South Africa and Indonesia.

Edsa, too, was the inspiration of Tiananmen Square, which might have been suppressed but continues to have ramifications on the communist leadership in Beijing and the future of China. It remains the inspiration of Aung Suu Kyi's confrontation with the socialist military dictatorship of Burma.

Now, after Edsa II, pro-democracy movements are feeling a second spring. Last month, Malaysians found again the gumption to rally against Mahathir. Indonesians have become more vocal about corruption in government.

If one considers the democratic whirlwind that took place between Edsa I and now, one realizes that Edsa II is a misnomer. Before Jan. 20, 2001, Edsa I had been replicated in other geographies, other climates, other peoples.

The most pathetic

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

EARLIER in this column, I said that the most hated man in the Philippines was Joseph Estrada with Francisco Tatad a close second. I've changed my mind. From my reading of the current popular sentiment, I now believe that the most hated man in the country is Tatad. Estrada is the most pathetic.

One doesn't waste pity on Tatad because there's nothing likable about him. Even some of his brothers in Opus Dei have rejected him for his hypocrisy. When I criticized him last year at the beginning of the impeachment trial, I was surprised by the number of readers who called or wrote to express their concurrence. I didn't realize there were so many people who disliked him. It's a wonder that he ever got elected.

With Estrada, it's different. There's no question he's a scoundrel, but many people can't really have deep feelings of hatred against him. The reason for the pro-Erap rabble is not only their stupidity but also the character of Erap. To them, he's a lovable rogue. He's some kind of anti-hero who invites scorn but not abhorrence because he's just not smart enough to be hated. Tatad fills that role. Tatad may be brighter, but there's no way he can be idolized like Erap.

Erap is like the barber in Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" who was thrust into a job he couldn't handle. The audience loved him despite his faults. His outstanding difference was that he was not a crook like Erap. The film was a spoof on Hitler who, incidentally, was also not a crook. He slaughtered millions of people, including 6 million Jews, but didn't have any secret bank accounts. He also didn't build a mansion for his one and only Eva Braun.

Hitler has long since gone to his eternal damnation, but our dictator is still alive and kicking. The poor fellow insists he's still the President of the Philippines and expects to return to Malacañang any day now. This delusion has added to the common impression that he needs not only a confessor but also a psychiatrist.

The Erap jokes have helped mold his image as a bumbling moron although he is not really that stupid. He encouraged those jokes during his presidential campaign in 1998 and probably got a lot of votes out of them. They became intolerable when he was already in the highest office in the land but continued to be mocked as an idiot. They soon revealed his true nature as a *pikon*. The jokes have not stopped even now that he is no longer the president.

The most pathetic thing about Estrada is the way he keeps insisting that he has done nothing wrong. To hear him speak, he's as faultless as a kindergarten kid. His denials of wrongdoing have become a mantra even his close supporters can't really believe. Not all the Puwersa ng Masa candidates are nincompoops who will swallow everything he says. I'm amazed at their straight faces when they echo his protestations if innocence as in a responsorial psalm. They've all become actors like him.

Save for the *Puwe!* people, all of Erap's previous courtiers have deserted him. That's another pathetic thing about him. During his heyday at Malacañang, he was surrounded by cronies, sycophants and all manner of kibitzers ready to toady to his every whim, like winning millions at mahjong. It was a motley crowd from the very wealthy to the *masa* that was ready to do his bidding as their lord and master.

Among these were the taipans, legislators (including the Osmeña-Oreta *balato* twins), showbiz people (remember the movie producers who pulled out their ads from the INQUIRER?), secretly paid journalists, and other opportunists waiting for presidential handouts like government contracts and multiple appointments.

Where are they now? In the solitude of his private residence in San Juan, ex-President Estrada must be sadly crooning, "Where are the friends of yesterday?" The answer is "Gone!"—gone with the wind, like the billions of pesos he has stashed away and are now frozen for certain forfeiture as ill-gotten wealth. (I don't see how he can legitimize this immense fortune as against his relatively picayune income as President, and even including his other legitimate earnings. Unless the Ombudsman bungles his job, Erap's conviction of plunder is inevitable.)

And his former buddies are not only gone but are hoping he gets his just deserts. How disloyal can they get? Obviously to save their own skins, and with no love left for Erap, they have manifested their willingness to testify against him out of their own personal knowledge of his incredible cupidity. The testimonies of these whistleblowers can be as damaging as, if not more so than, those of the legitimate witnesses.

Mark Jimenez and Atong Ang are only two of the renegades, and more are expected to come forward. In fact, there's a scramble to be on the safe side of the new government. Other close companions have simply distanced themselves, like Eduardo Cojuangco, Mike Velarde and Lucio Tan, to name a few. They have understandably transferred their allegiance to the present resident at the Palace, where the power is. Their ardor for Erap has cooled because he has become a political eunuch.

The tragedy of Joseph Estrada is that he was so gripped by the insolence of power that he thought he could do anything without accountability. That's why he saw nothing reckless about signing a fictitious name in the presence of Clarissa Ocampo, whom he had never met before. He probably thought no one would dare to cross him because he was the President. He did not reckon with Ocampo and Edgardo Espiritu and the other witnesses who boldly denounced him at the risk of their lives and careers.

As he sees the evidence against him mounting by the day, Erap must be wryly contemplating how his life has turned around since the glory days. Little did he realize that all his arrogance would catch up with him and reduce him to the brittle icon that he has become. There were millions who believed his battle cry of *"Erap para sa mahirap"* not knowing that in his heart of hearts he meant *"Erap para kay Erap."* He could have been a great President, but now he's only a great felon.

We can can!

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

PUZZLED by the title? Try solving this puzzle. Without subtracting, adding, or rearranging the words, put the necessary punctuation marks on the phrase, WHAT WE CAN CAN WE CAN WHAT WE CAN NOT WE DO NOT.

* * *

The key to the puzzle revolves on the word "CAN." The reason why we cannot open the puzzle is because we are so dead set on the meaning of the word "can" as "being able," so, try as we might, it does not make sense. The Gospel today (Lk 6, 39-45) teaches us to be open and not close our hearts and minds to possibilities. Do not judge and condemn people. Do not be biased. In other words, do not put people in cans.

* * *

We have unlocked the puzzle because we opened our minds to another meaning of the word "can" i.e. *lata*, a container. As long as we hold on to our unbending judgments, feelings, mindsets and biases, we cannot be set free from our inner prisons. How do we look at people? How do we look at God? How do we look at life itself? Careful. We can be closed and biased. Indeed, we can can!

* * *

The answer to the puzzle is: WHAT WE CAN CAN, WE CAN. WHAT WE CANNOT, WE DO NOT. This is an ad from a packaging company that claims it can package (put it in a can) anything, but, at the same time accepts that it cannot package everything. Neither can we. Neither should we.

* * *

About three years ago, I met a seminarian who was four years from ordination. He was visiting his mother who was an inmate at the Correctional Prison for Women. For a while I could not understand. In my heart I was saying how could this be, Lord? My judgmental heart was asking how a death row inmate could produce a priest son...it was then that the Lord reminded me not to judge. It was a moment of grace and hope that reminded me that something good can come out of a seemingly bad and dark situation. Let us continue to ask God to help us see the good, the beautiful, the bright side, the hope and the reality of grace in every situation.

* * *

Did you hear of the story about how a farm manager solved a cattle crisis? According to the story, there was a drought, the grass was brown and the cows were not eating. What did he do? He put on green eyeglasses on the cows and the cows started eating the grass again! *"Galing 'no?"* Maybe we all need new glasses to see the world in a different way again. We need new eyes to remove our judgments, biases and prejudices and to broaden our horizons. We must always give room to the Holy Spirit so that we can see with Jesus' eyes, listen with His ears, love with His heart, and work with His loving hands.

* * *

Here's another story I heard. A man had a habit of always forgetting his driving glasses. The solution? He had his whole windshield graded according to his eyesight. Fine. Problem solved! But, a big problem for those who ride in his car who end up dizzy and nauseated whenever they look through his windshield. This is a very simple case of a selfish person who sees everything only according to his own view. Don't forget that other people have their own point of view also, and that they could be right too, you know. Has it ever occurred to you that maybe, just maybe you could be wrong and have blind spots too?

* * *

When God looks at us *daw*, He covers one eye so that He will not see anymore that which is negative in us. "Looking through the eyes of love." Love is the can opener that can open any can. We can can, but also, we can love. With love, an entirely qualitatively new perspective opens before us, with "no walls, no ceilings and no floors."

* * *

From time to time, the Lord brings us to the mountaintop so that we can see far and wide. As a nation, the Lord brought us to Edsa, the vantagepoint where we saw who we are and what we can and should be as a nation. While at the mountaintop as at Edsa, the vision and the mission become clear. But we cannot stay at the mountaintop or at Edsa forever. We have to go down to realities and move on. However, we must bring with us the eyes of the mountaintop and Edsa. The ideals, the dreams, the resolve, the commitments must not be left behind. As a people and as a nation, we must continue to look with the eyes of love and with the eyes of Edsa. Yes, we can!

* * *

This Feb. 28 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is a day of fasting (only one full meal for those who are 18-60 years old), and a day of abstinence (no meat for those who are 14 years old up). But more than physical fasting and abstinence, let us concentrate on the healing of our bad habits, relationships and attitudes. One good way to start is to make a good confession. (When was the last time you made a good confession?) And lots of good works, all done in secret, with joy, with deep gratitude and humility!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, help me to see with the eyes of love and never to put anything or anyone in cans. Amen.

The forgotten Mijares disappearance

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—Chances are the Bubby Dacer disappearance will never be solved, nor will the perpetrators of this dastardly crime be brought to justice. Will this case suffer the same fate as that of Primitivo "Tibo" Mijares, whose disappearance a few years after he wrote the devastating "The Conjugal Dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos I," first printed in 1976, is all but forgotten?

In his dramatic dedication note to his book, Mijares wrote: "To the Filipino People, who dramatized in the Battle of Mactan of April 27, 1521, their rejection of a foreign tyranny sought to be imposed by Ferdinand Magellan, that they may soon recover lost courage, and, with greater determination, rid the Philippines of the evil rule of a homegrown tyrant with the same initials."

To refresh our memories, since it has been so long, Mijares was not always a Marcos hater. In fact, he was a close Marcos confidant, among the few who could enter Marcos' bedroom to talk with him. As far as could be reconstructed, shortly after martial law was declared by Marcos in 1972, Mijares was sent on a mission to the United States to gauge the strength of the opposition against the newly installed regime in the Philippines. One of Marcos' arch opponents, Eugenio Lopez Sr., was living in San Francisco at the time. The opposition was growing. Lopez was publishing a major Filipino newspaper, almost all of which was directed against Marcos. Mijares was to be the chief Marcos propagandist in the United States.

But as history would have it, Mijares defected from "the conjugal dictatorship of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos" on Feb. 20, 1975. Following his defection, he began in earnest to complete the book he had been writing on the excesses and decadence of the Marcoses. When he finished it, he wrote in his foreword, "This is a book for which so much has been offered and done by Marcos and his minions so it would never see the light of print." The book became a cause célèbre. It was a bestseller. "Now that is off the press," continued Mijares, "I entertain greater fear that so much more will be done to prevent its circulation, not only in the Philippines but also in the United States." Knowing Marcos, he had reason to fear.

When the book came out, Filipino readers in the United States devoured it, particularly Chapter 10, which deals with "The Loves of Marcos." It was written in such vivid, graphic detail (some of it is actually lurid), which invited voyeurism from readers more than anything else. In fact, I would see mimeographed copies of that chapter alone, which circulated among opposition groups in the United States and in the underground in the Philippines. In those days, dilapidated mimeo machines produced the materials for the revolution. They were carried by couriers or even mailed in hopes that the system would not be as efficient as to be able to track everything down.

Ever the wily tyrant, Marcos tried to press what he thought was Mijares' weak button. When Mijares offered to testify before the Fraser Committee on International Organizations in the US House of Representatives, Marcos tried to bribe him with $100,000. The "go-between" was reportedly Gimo de Vega, an old Mijares buddy who was working in Malacañang. But it was too late and Mijares went ahead with his damaging testimony. He predicted that mounting economic hardships in the Philippines would bring down the Marcos dictatorship in 1981. In an interesting twist, De Vega was killed in the Palace shortly after and it was never established that this had anything to do with "*l'affaire* Mijares." It was written off as a personal vendetta by the killer.

At this point, Marcos must have blistered at being initially double-crossed and crossed again. From here, the mystery deepens. The last time Mijares was mentioned in media circles, it was in the syndicated column of Jack Anderson. Apparently, Mijares had confided to Anderson that he was going to Manila, and that he would send Anderson a postcard from Hong Kong. Since Anderson did not receive such a postcard, something must have happened.

The scuttlebutt was that the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco had arranged for Mijares' trip back home. And that was the last time he was ever heard from. He had simply vanished. To add to the tragedy, his son had been murdered in a hazing incident supposedly. Again, that was never established as part of a retribution for what his father did against the Marcos regime.

The constant version of Mijares' disappearance was that he was pushed off a plane over Guam. But since the body was never found, this story did not wash. Did the plane land on Guam for the usual stopover? Was Mijares murdered there? Who did it? The goons of the regime, no doubt. Who would have a motive to have him disappear? As far as could be ascertained, he never reached Hong Kong nor Manila.

Ironically, Mijares had written about the famous disappearances during the Marcos regime in his book. He was absolutely convinced the regime had a hand in the "heart attack" of Marcos Soliman, for instance. Soliman, it will be recalled, was a general who headed the Nica at one time. He was suspected by Marcos' agents as the one who had provided Ninoy Aquino the blueprint for martial law, titled "Oplan Sagittarius." That was the same plan that Marcos had distributed to other generals in his inner circle. But evil genius that he was, he marked the copies with different titles, as a sort of a code. For Soliman, whose surname begins with S, Marcos gave him the copy "Oplan Sagittarius." So when Aquino exposed Oplan Sagittarius in the Senate, Marcos knew that that was the copy he gave to Soliman. Clever, isn't it? Only a criminal mind could have thought of that. Marcos just couldn't stand being double-crossed. If you did that, he made sure you were dead meat.

Did Bubby Dacer cross Estrada? Was he going to write a book like Mijares did? Was the book going to tell all, at least a good deal? Did he get a sense, like Mijares did, of his impending doom? Did Estrada order a hit? Will we ever know?

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Beneath the bonhomie

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"THREE more days and you would have seen Ferris wheels in the middle of it all," the late movie director Lino Brocka is supposed to have commented at the end of People Power I.

And indeed, there was something of a carnival atmosphere on Edsa in 1986. A cluster of seminarians, priests and nuns walked the length from Santolan to Ortigas with a statue of the Virgin Mary in a *cariton* (was this where Fr. Robert Reyes got the idea?). Fishball stands, popcorn carts, ice cream trolleys mingled among the crowds. At various points, speakers mounted the stage and would harangue the Marcos forces, like sideshow barkers. At night, impromptu sing-alongs would be staged among the clusters of overnighters.

Beneath the cheerful, celebratory atmosphere, though, there flowed an undertow of tension and apprehension. My brother, now living in the States, joined the phalanx at the White Plains end of Santolan near Camp Aguinaldo. Twice their group was engulfed in tear gas, as pro-Marcos troops attempted to break through the cordon to make way for tanks that would have overrun the military camp. Twice their motley defense line of seminarians, activists and students repulsed the armed men. And lest we forget, there was a bloody shootout between factions from both sides of the political divide before the takeover of the government television facilities. Well I remember the sight of a marine hanging from PTV-4's tower, shot by his comrades on the other side.

The world will long remember the encounter between tanks and people power wielding prayer power at the site of what is now the Edsa Shrine. But imagine what would have happened if the tank division commandant had just been a little more rash or hot-headed. Or if the marines driving the tanks had been just a bit more bloodthirsty.

In the rosy afterglow of the Edsa commemoration, let's not forget that beneath the bonhomie of those events 15 years ago lay a real, ever-present threat of violence, bloodshed and tragedy.

* * *

BECAUSE I was due to give birth anytime, I was ordered by my superiors at Veritas newsmagazine, where I was a senior writer at the time, to be confined to quarters, to our basement offices on Panay Avenue to "woman" the newsdesk.

Chafing at being away from the action, I little realized that I would soon be caught in the middle of a side-battle.

I was monitoring reports from the field, when my lips began to twitch and a sharp, offensive stench filled my nostrils. As my throat tightened, I recognized the fumes as tear gas, and we all rushed up the stairs and out the building for some fresh air.

There we saw government troops chasing unarmed civilians, some of whom were stopping once in a while to hurl back rocks and hollow blocks. It turned out that trucks filled with soldiers were rushing toward the PTV-4 compound (now ABS-CBN) when their path was blocked by outraged citizens. The tear gas was to disperse the blockades, but even then we could already hear the sharp exchange of gunfire at the TV station.

We crouched low near some bushes, gasping for air while trying to keep out of the line of fire. Later that afternoon, together with the hubby and having ascertained that the compound was now firmly in "rebel" hands, we took a look at the pockmarked walls of the compound. I poked a finger inside one of the holes in the concrete, imagining the bullet that formed the hole entering human flesh, imagining the blood and tissue spilling forth. Often, in those days, survival was just a matter of a few meters of safety, a few minutes of luck.

* * *

IN CONTRAST to the situation in 1986, the atmosphere at People Power II was jolly, carefree, casual. No keeping ears pricked for the rumble of oncoming tanks, no peering at the sky to check for approaching planes, this time. Erap lawyer Rene Saguisag loves referring to it as a "giant street party," derisively.

And yet, while the threat of being overrun by forces loyal to Erap was not there, it doesn't mean that people had come to the Edsa Shrine and environs just to party. You could do so far more comfortably at any of the rave events on weekends, though admittedly not for free.

But certainly there were easier ways to join a convivial group than to stand beneath the flyover, overwhelmed by the stench of urine, crushed by warm, sweaty bodies (no perfumed crowds here), blinded by the beams of searchlights and TV cameras.

If someone like Saguisag could not see beyond the entertainers onstage, the swaying arms, the shouted slogans, the people who were there certainly knew what it was that drew them, what irresistible force had summoned them from out of their beds in the middle of the night, from out of their offices and classrooms, from out of churches and convents, to mingle with like-minded citizens and bring down a corrupt government.

* * *

"DO you realize," said my sister Joni just recently, "that in those four days at Edsa, despite the fact that majority of the people there were *bagets*, there was no report of violence, drunkenness, drug-taking, of theft, of girls being molested? To me, the discipline of the crowds was the most amazing thing about Edsa Dos."

Indeed, if you bothered to take stock of everything that could have gone wrong during those four days, the real miracle is that nothing of the sort occurred. Trouble is bound to erupt where a large number of people is gathered, especially young people in a mood to party. That conflict did not rear its head at all, is really a tribute to the sense of purpose that the Edsa Dos Generation brought to their own epochal moment.

Today is their day, too.

What makes people power possible?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WE have had two now in just a span of 15 years. Foreigners think we may be overdoing it a bit, not allowing our political institutions to mature and work properly. They say we have been reckless and blind to the risks of direct non-institutional action in politics. They warn that if we make a habit of it, there may be nothing to celebrate the next time around.

People Power is clearly the forbidden fruit of politics. Its magic has not been fully grasped; its long-term implications for the life of a nation are not fully known. What makes political theorists wary of its use is the belief that for collective life in the modern world to have any degree of security, it must develop stable institutions under a culture of law. To fail to do so would be to invite recurrent disorder and destructive conflict. It is difficult to argue against these notions, and it is well for us to bear them in mind even as we open ourselves to the wondrous surprises of creative interventions.

I think we have been extremely fortunate to have stumbled upon people power as a tool for resolving difficult political crises at a time when armed uprisings have become increasingly costly for nations in the modern world. While other societies remain trapped in dysfunctional political structures and processes that impede their growth, we have been more daring in our quest for solutions, trusting only in the basic goodwill of our people. Our experiences must be carefully distilled and incorporated into the lore of popular struggles. Doing so may help us avoid pitfalls in the future and give us greater confidence in what we do. But more importantly, it may inspire other nations to take their destinies in their hands and create their own paths to freedom and development.

The first thing we must recognize about people power is that it is not easy to mount. One cannot just summon it, for it has a will of its own. Cynical politicians will always try to simulate it because they have this impression that people power is nothing more than just bringing large numbers of people to a designated place, and furnishing them with slogans to shout and banners under which to march. They think of people not as willful beings who can make decisions for themselves but as mobilizable masses that can be manipulated and ordered around. They equate people power with crowds for hire. Well, we have seen what happens to such crowds at the first sign of danger.

Real people power is autonomous, self-willed and well informed. It draws its courage and determination from the power of its convictions. It is inventive and free, and not constrained by dogma, political correctness or any party line. It is moral protest elevated to an art. It is not awed by power. It stands up to power, but it disdains power. That is why it has no leaders, only symbols. It clothes itself in the symbols of everything that is good, decent and responsible.

It is unarmed, non-violent and highly disciplined. It is militant but never sad. Indeed it is festive and celebratory. It is angry at times, but never aggressive. It does not only claim the moral high ground, but it also regards itself as the force of the new, the vanguard of a hopeful future. Oppressive, morally bankrupt and corrupt regimes are its principal targets. The power that installs colonels or generals in successful military coups is not people power. That is the power of tanks and armed troops.

The crowds that are mobilized and prompted to sing praises for someone already in power do not constitute people power. People power is never sycophantic. While it fights tyrants and corrupt leaders, it studiously avoids being used for narrow personal ends. And herein lies its paradoxical strength: people power is a political weapon with political ends; yet it resolutely rejects political ambition.

People power became possible when Filipinos learned to think of their political institutions not as sacred structures to be revered but as practical tools to be used in the pursuit of national goals. Our awakening to this truth, ironically, did not begin with the 1986 People Power I but with the declaration of martial law in 1972. Marcos was the first to deviate from the rules of our inherited institutions when he extended his presidency beyond two terms and assumed the power to make laws. From that point on, it was no longer possible to replace him by the usual rules of democratic succession. He could have anointed Imelda and Bongbong as his successors. We could have ousted him by an armed revolution or by a coup d'état. It would have been hard to go back to a constitutional framework. But we discovered people power, and it made all the difference.

People power stays aboveground, but it creates its own arena of political engagement and its own modes of expression. It firmly opposes power, but it does so without attempting to match, weapon for weapon, the armed might of the state. Its nakedness is the source of its power. The world out there is its sole protection. So long as the media bear witness to its struggle, no further shield is necessary. The battle is waged not as a contest of arms but as a fight for legitimacy. Such terrain is unfamiliar to autocrats, generals and obsolete politicians. People power has seldom failed in a world covered by global media. No, the real threat to people power does not lie in its misuse. It lies rather in the distinct possibility that citizens, from sheer frustration, might one day just give up trying and caring for their country.

* * *

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Edsa II saw the birth of 21st century media

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

YES it did, and we're not talking about the texting phenomenon—that's already been written about a lot.

What we're referring to is the news website, as the media of this century.

At Edsa II, mobile phone "texting" did demonstrate its power—but it was mostly confined locally, and providing only snippets of news. It was the Internet though which made a real breakthrough as a new, powerful media form, one accessible all over the world and providing detailed, even real-time news. Edsa II demonstrated why it could be a superior form of media than print and television, why the Internet is the news media of the future.

That may sound like another one of those now ho-hum Internet hypes. But this paper's website, www.inq7.net, expanded as a joint venture with GMA Network, is already a reality. The website's readers during that Edsa II week—based on the automated count of its US-based server—was being read by about 400,000 people daily. That's all over the world, and bigger than this paper's print circulation of 250,000.

Read two of the many comments of people who saw for themselves that new Internet power. From former Canadian Ambassador John Treleaven, writing from Saskatchewan, Canada, about INQ7:

"Unfortunately, no Canadian cable TV service carries ABS-CBN, so the coverage (of Edsa II) in this country was limited. Your excellent website saw us through this amazing period in the history of the Philippines. (My wife) Beverly and I spent many long hours refreshing the site frequently to stay current with 'Breaking News' and your minute by minute updates."

But what about CNN? Read Filipino expat Wing Chua's e-mail from New England:

"There was no coverage of Edsa II in CNN or the US networks because they were all in the middle of the Bush inauguration weekend. So, the only source of news (on Edsa II) I had was the Internet.

"I particularly want to highlight that 'button' that you had, wherein the page was on real-time mode, updating highlights of what was happening every five minutes. Every time I refreshed the screen, a new update would come on…so, again, just imagine that I was up all night just clicking and clicking the refresh button…waiting for the news when Erap finally left.

"That function of your page really answered what I needed that very moment."

To understand why Internet will be the media of the future, consider the following:

• A newspaper really contains yesterday's news. At the latest, everything you're reading now in print was written and delivered to the press at 11 p.m. yesterday.

But a website can be updated, even its entire contents changed, 24 hours a day—and news, whose delivery is media's primordial task, is by definition, new information.

INQ7 even crunched, so to speak, that time horizon. First, it reported news as they broke out. This roughly entailed a 30-minute lag time, for editing and uploading it in the website.

For instance, at around 4 p.m. on Jan. 19, the newspaper website already had its banner headline, "People Power overcomes," with the story pegged on the breakaway of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The print edition would hit the streets to report that story only the next day.

INQ7 actually was "crunching" the lag time to approach real time, through its own "Running Account" technology started during the impeachment trial. "Estrada is waving goodbye," the site's "What's Happening" reported, a minute after the actual event.

• But television does that, doesn't it? Yes, but there's a big difference, and here's where we can show why the Internet as a media form is superior not only to newspapers but to TV as well. If you had a long night on Jan. 19, as many Filipinos did, and woke up at 5 p.m., you wouldn't get on television what happened as soon as you turned on the set, whether Estrada already left the Palace or not. Well, you can, but you'd have to wait and hope there's a recap or a replay.

But the news on the website is *on-demand*. In INQ7's "What's Happening" format, you just had to log on and check what has happened to Estrada in the hours you were asleep, and there's a minute by minute account. Did you miss that edition of "Saksi" because you were stuck in rush-hour traffic? Just click and retrieve that episode in the Web's video section.

Other than these two advantages of a news website—its "updatability" and its "on-demand" feature—there are three others newspapers and television don't:

• **Archivability**. You'd like to check what Clarissa Ocampo said in her testimony? Just click on the website's search button, and you'll find it. You can't do that in television. You'd have to go to the INQUIRER's library to find that particular edition you need.

• **Space**. Especially because of soaring print costs—which make up 70 percent of a Philippine newspaper's, expenses—you likely didn't find the entire "Articles of Impeachment" against Estrada in any paper. It's in the website: after all, that document occupies only probably a millionth of the hard disk space that contains all of INQ7's data.

• **Interactivity**. That's a technospeak word for a basic marketing or even product development principle. The consumer would want his views to have some impact on the product he buys. That's not just a gimmick: thousands, or hundreds of thousands of people, would know how your product could be improved. And they'll tell you swiftly, since it needs just a few mouse clicks to do so.

• **Unlimited reach**. There are still of course financial constraints. While you can put up at minimal cost a website that would be visited by 100 people, you need to pay around $3,000 monthly to operate a website that gets 100,000 "eyeballs" daily. But the big and obvious advantage of a news website from a newspaper is that the cost of producing and distributing a single "copy" is theoretically zero.

And its reach and accessibility are theoretically unlimited. You don't need to wait for the paperboy. People from places like Auckland, Jeddah, Utrecht actually get to read the INQUIRER hours earlier than its print edition hits the streets in Manila.

Quite obviously though, one would need a computer and an Internet connection. But there's over 500 million Internet users today, and the figure is rising every day. In this decade, computers with Internet connections will be as ubiquitous as telephones and TV.

But you can't bring your PC to the toilet, or use it to swat a fly. You can't have everything.

* * *

Disclosure: The author is the editor in chief of the website he is writing about, www.inq7.net, which will be formally launched on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m. at the GMA Network complex, with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as guest of honor.

* * *

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

IN DEPTH

LEAH P. MAKABENTA, Editor

RADICALISM RESURGENT

The decline and fall and rise again of the Left

BY LEAH P. MAKABENTA

THE *Philippine Left: Political Crisis and Social Change* by the Australian academic, Ben Reid, came off the press late last year just in time for People Power II. The Left, the most significant force leading the movement for radical social change in the country, has entered a strange phase in its history. Though some of the self-serving accounts that have come out do not overly emphasize the fact, the Left did play an important strategic role at Edsa II.

And though once there, the leftists promptly grouped around their old antagonistic factions, the indications are that the Left, or at least large parts of it, is moving away from a militarized strategy and embracing "bourgeois" political processes to stay in the political game.

Only last week, the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines exhorted its cadres to take part in the May elections "to seize all chances and opportunities to position progressives in various sections and levels of the reactionary government."

Elements of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan or Bayan (New Nationalist Alliance), one of the CPP-allied coalitions formed during the anti-Marcos protest movement in the early 1980s, has formed the Bayan Muna party to take part in the May elections.

Other leftist groups opposed to it have actually beaten the orthodox CPP to the draw. Two party list groups formed by breakaway factions are already represented in Congress.

Earlier this month, comrades of the fallen Filemon "Popoy" Lagman, who led the main CPP breakaway faction, organized the Partidong Manggagawa (Worker's Party) to contest the May elections.

Whether this development represents just another turn or a new rally in the imposing landscape of the history of radical political struggles in the country remains to be seen.

Fragmentation and decline

For some indication of what could happen, one ought to read Reid's book, a realistic analysis of the monumental splintering of the CPP in 1993 that left the party, arguably the most important radical social movement in the Asian region in the 1970s and 1980s, fragmented and in decline for most of the decade.

But more than that, it is the thesis of this comprehensive, well-informed and largely persuasive book that what caused the breakdown was a misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the process of political and social change in the Philippines which led to the adoption of the wrong methods and strategy.

It is a lesson that should be learned not just by would-be revolutionaries but especially by anyone attempting to govern the country and transform Philippine society.

The author, a professor of geography and political science at the University of Melbourne, sees many obstacles to economic and political development in the country's future.

According to him, governments from Marcos to Aquino could not resolve problems of economic development because of a failure to understand and address the enduring social barriers to capitalist industrialization, mainly because they themselves were not free of class interests.

This is why Reid concludes that a radical revolutionary change remains a possibility in the Philippines.

No government based on a constituency of traditional class interests has the capacity or motivation to enact changes necessary for a rapid process of development, he writes.

Hence, the responsibility for carrying out such a transformation would likely fall on the groups traditionally representing the exploited classes of Philippine society, that is, the Left.

The book, which can be taken as a study of the evolution of the country's political economy, comes in two parts.

The first deals with the history of the CPP and its eventual fragmentation.

The second traces the process of capitalist transition in the Philippines and how this affected radical social movements centered on the CPP.

Philippine Left: Political Crisis and Social Change
by Ben Reid. Manila: Journal of Contemporary Asia, 2000, 210 pp.

The CPP and its history

Reid says the problem in part is built into the history of the CPP. The origins of the CPP and its related organizations—the National Democratic Front and the New People's Army—lie in the rebellion mounted by youths and students in the mid to late 1960s. The CPP was founded in 1968 by one of the radical leaders of that generation, Jose Ma. Sison, based on a dogmatic interpretaton of Maoism and the Chinese revolution.

According to the by now familiar outlines of this Maoist formula, the Philippines was a "semi-feudal and semi-colonial" society. This meant that United States imperialism, aided by its local agents—the "comprador" bourgeoisie and the landlord class—was preventing the development of industrial capitalism and a national bourgeoisie in the Philippines. It followed that a national democratic revolution was needed to achieve liberation.

A revolutionary army to be raised among the peasants in the countryside would carry out a protracted people's war which would advance through several phases until the cities were surrounded and state power seized in a final military offensive. The NPA, formed in 1969, was the basis of the CPP's military force.

Tactical experiments

Sison's interpretation of Maoism created problems from the beginning, necessitating initial revisions in strategy in the early 1970s. In one such reform, regional CCP units which were given some autonomy undertook some tactical experiments which led to further conflict. Two of these units, the Metro Manila Rizal Regional Committee (MR) and the Mindanao Commission experimented with tactical innovations that conflicted with the party's strategy. The result was the dissolution of the MR leadership by the party's executive committee. Both experiments involved paying more attention to urban forces and adopting a more flexible attitude to forging alliances with non-communist organizations, which was frowned upon by CPP ideology. The MR leadership which entered into alliances during the 1978 interim assembly elections, ended up being dissolved by the executive committee. The party's inflexibility resulted in the Left's marginalization during the first Edsa uprising.

PAGE DESIGN AND PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERNIE SAMBO FROM PHOTOS OF VAL HANDUMON AND JOAN BONDOC

> Traditional politicians are hamstrung by their analysis of the country's conditions. Because of that, the social classes they represent are incapable of leading the kind of process and change needed to transform Philippine society.

In the wake of the collapse of the command economies in Eastern Europe and the process of reform in China, the CPP underwent a major crisis and eventually broke up in 1993.

The CPP leadership, centered around Sison, who had resumed the post of party chairman, issued the document "Reaffirm Our Basic Principles and Rectify Our Errors," that argued for a return to extreme Maoist orthodoxy. After conducting a purge, two main factions emerged as alternative organizations to the CPP.

These were the reconstituted MR, centered mainly among the trade union and urban poor movements in the National Capital Region and the Third Force based in non-government organizations and the largely legal peasant movement. Both these groups eventually went on to form new legal mass movement organizations.

The factions that broke away from the CPP were based on different social groups, in opposition to the key CPP tenet privileging the peasantry as the central agent of social change.

The MR, in particular, emphasized the role of urban classes, the result of its leader, Lagman's, study of Leninist texts that contrasted significantly with Maoist orthodoxy. This eventually led to the rejection by the MR of the rural-based protracted war model.

Processes of change

Reid examines exactly what elements in the Philippine process of transition and change resulted in this division.

The political crisis in the CPP was related to some of the processes of change occurring in the country and in other Asian nations, he says.

The process of capitalist industrialization in many Aisan states meant a relative transformation of social relations and correspondingly of the forms of social conflict. Peasant-based struggles against colonialism and for national liberation have become less significant. New class relationships have emerged with the growth of working classes, semi-proletarian, urban and middle classes.

The agrarian question ceased to have weight, agriculture having become just another branch of industry.

The CPP's Maoist doctrine assumed that the conditions of political struggle and action in China in the 1930s and 1940s could be rigidly applied to contemporary Philipppine conditions. A peasant-based army would act as the agent of revolutionary change by carrying out a "protracted people's war."

The CPP's assigning of a privileged role to a relatively undifferentiated peasantry as the central social force for revolutionary change overlooked other, more central arenas of political action.

In particular, the CPP ignored the growth of a population that contained a substantial "service" and industrial proletariat. Regional units of the CPP that were involved in the practical mass struggles were continually in conflict with the party leadership's understanding of the process of political change. This ultimately culminated in the split in 1993.

The Maoist analysis, Reid says, tended to to emphasize the role of undifferentiated agrarian communities. However, the process of capitalist transition in agriculture has undermined the basis of this model of revolutionary action. The growth of the urban-based movement reflected the capitalist transition under way in the Philippines. In agriculture there has been an overall process of change. A series of limited land reforms replaced sharecropping with leasehold relations, transformed many peasants into small landowners and promoted the growth of a wage-earning rural sector.

Moreover, the author argues, class structure dictated certain elements of this capitalist transition. The process of class formation is determined by the extent to which predominantly agrarian pre-capitalist classes have declined and the degree to which social surplus is re-invested into capitalist or industrial accumulation. In the Philippines, the limited expansion of industry resulted in the consolidation of an enduring set of class relations called rent capitalism.

In contrast to comparable Asian states like South Korea and Taiwan, where land reform and control by the state of surplus was crucial in the accumulation of industrial capital, rent capitalism was consolidated in the Philippines.

Instead of the social surplus being invested in industrial accumulation, government policies tended to encourage the movement of landowning capital to rentier and rent-seeking activities, that is, non-productive ventures. Landowning capital diversified, investing in distribution, especially within the oligopolistic wholesale trade area.

Rent capitalism reached its apogee during the Marcos dictatorship where authoritarian powers and external finance allowed certain privileged groups to profit from trade monopolies.

An increasing proportion of economic activities centered on these areas which, combined with the modest growth in industry, resulted in the growth of an urban wage-earning sector. Meanwhile, land reform and other changes in agriculture encouraged the further commodification of the agrarian economy.

All these changes undermined the CPP's programmatic orientation to the peasant classes and the eventual fragmentation of the national democratic movement into the urban and rural bases.

Barriers to development

The structural constraints to capitalist industrialization were to hamper successive governments' attempts to resolve the problems of economic development. Rent capitalism limited the capacity of these governments to implement successful economic and development programs over a 30-year period.

These barriers have not been altered despite the democratic restoration under Aquino. If anything, there was a process of return of most capital and resources back to pre-martial law and pre-Marcos arrangements. Neither did Ramos's aggressive approach significantly alter this trend as, like others before him, he failed to address the underlying social problems of development.

With Edsa II, the Philippines seems to have turned a corner in public life. Spurred by outrage over corruption in the Estrada government, a process of political reform was begun that has pushed all major political forces, even the Left, toward moderation and consensus. A failure by the new Macapagal-Arroyo administration to accelerate reform and growth would make orderly accommodation of those interests, the reduction of poverty and eventual maintenace of stability and national unity vastly more difficult.

In a recent interview, Reid professed to being not the least bit optimistic that the governing class could ever succeed in transforming Philippine society.

"Traditional politicians are hamstrung by their impossible analysis of the process of development and change and because of that, the social classes they represent are incapable of leading the kind of process and change needed to transform Philippine society," he said.

That is why any change in the Philippines, he says, will not come from the progressive forces' collaboration with the Macapagal government but from the popular social forces—the workers, the peasants, the poor farmers—organizing themselves and putting pressure on the government.

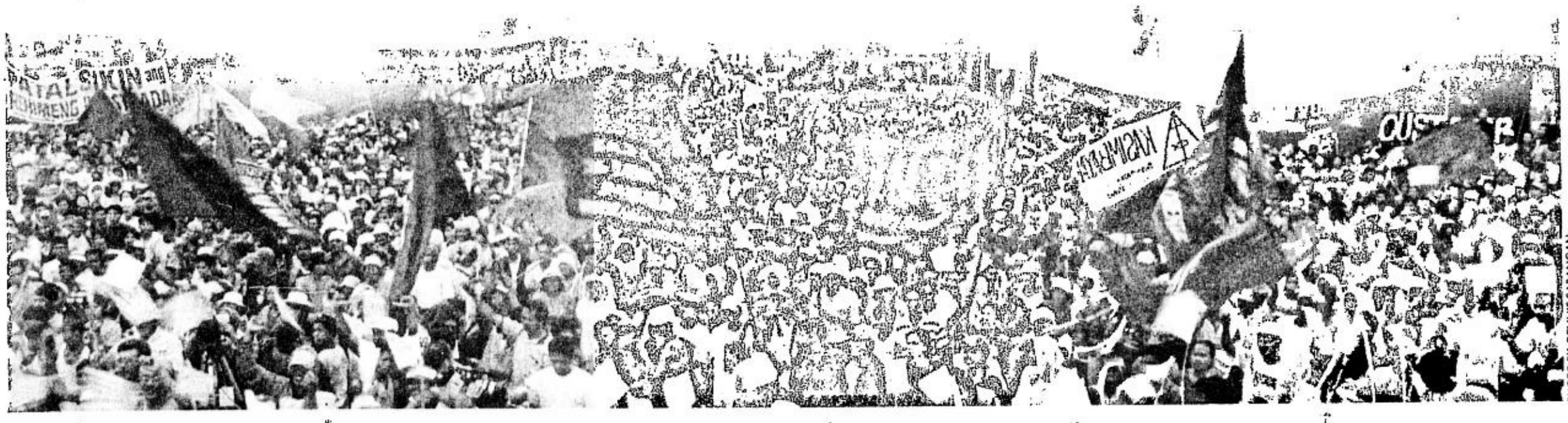

PHOTO BY: DENNIS SABANGAN

The WORLD
MARGOT J. BATERINA, Editor

Headless bodies in Borneo

SAMPIT, Indonesia—The death toll from six days of brutal ethnic clashes in Indonesia's Borneo island rose to more than 200 Friday as the violence spread and Dayak tribesmen marauded in armed bands through the town.

"More than 200 dead bodies have been recorded," a staff member at Sampit General Hospital in Indonesia's Central Kalimantan province said by telephone from the city of Sampit on condition of anonymity.

"There are still many more bodies lying in the streets, many without heads," doctor Qomaruddin Sukhami, the East Waringin district health officer, said earlier Friday.

Police and residents said Dayak tribesmen armed with swords, bows and arrows and deadly blow-guns, were hunting the corpse-strewn streets of Sampit for Madurese settlers.

Sukhami said many of the bodies had been slashed by traditional Dayak swords called mandau, and shot with poison arrows from blowguns.

They cut off their heads "like chickens" and the carnage was "like the French revolution," he said.

"A lot of heads are missing."

Thick smoke rose from the homes of the Madurese, most of whom had fled, an AFP photographer said. He said troops were patrolling approach roads to the city, and that dozens of houses in outlying villages had been burned to the ground.

Dayaks, armed with arrows, sickles and other traditional weapons, set up roadblocks in and around the city.

They identified themselves with red headbands and red or yellow cloths tied to their wrists, and motorists draped red cloth on their vehicles.

Meanwhile two Navy landing crafts, the Teluk Sampit and Teluk Ende, were steaming up the Mentayan River toward Sampit, to transport hundreds of the estimated 11,000 of Madurese refugees sheltering in government offices to safety.

The ships were due to arrive later in the night and leave for Surabaya on Java island early Saturday, the AFP photographer said.

Corporal Rahman of the local military told AFP earlier that "fighting stopped this morning but we're still on alert."

Sukhami said the killings were spreading in a "triangle of violence" beyond Sampit, the district capital and main trading town, and that 65 of the bodies had been found outside the town.

"Another 26 bodies have been found in the Kuala Kuayan district 75 km north of Sampit, since yesterday, and seven in Cempaga," 30 km to the northeast.

On Thursday Sukhami said 28 bodies had been recovered in Parenggean, 40 km to the north, and four in Kasongan 80 km northeast.

More than 600 additional police and soldiers have been deployed to Sampit and chief security minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Thursday another battalion of 650 soldiers was on its way.

Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo island, has seen repeated outbreaks of ethnic violence.

Dayaks resent the commercial dominance of ethnic Madurese, relocated to Kalimantan largely through the government-sponsored transmigration program designed to move residents from crowded areas to thinly populated regions. *AFP*

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Int'l agency offers free AIDS medicine

BOMBAY—An international aid agency said Friday it will distribute an anti-AIDS drug purchased from an Indian company free of charge in 10 countries.

Doctors Without Borders—or Medecins sans Frontieres—will buy the anti-AIDS cocktail from the Indian company Cipla Ltd.

"In general, where the Cipla drug will be used, it will be supplied free of cost. Wherever it is purchased by governments, it would be sold at reduced prices," Daniel Berman of the agency's Access to Essential Medicines campaign said.

Berman said the agency will begin distributing the drugs "over the next couple of months."

On Feb. 7, Cipla offered to sell a three-drug anti-retroviral cocktail to Doctros Without Borders for $350 per person, per year, if the aid agency agreed to distribute it for free and took care of the legalities of importing it.

Cipla also offered to sell the triple-combination therapy drugs to governments for $600 per patient instead of the $10,000 to $15,000 charged in the United States and Europe.

The Bombay-based company says it could manufacture the drugs cheaply because production costs are low in India and it makes the raw materials. *AP*

How to text using Globelines 1-900-TXT:

You can send messages to any Globe Handyphone subscriber by composing your own message or by choosing from any of the pre-composed text messages.

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2. Press 1 to send a message or wait for the voice prompt.
3. Enter the number of the Globe Handyphone (0917+cellphone number) you are sending the message to.
4. Then choose from the following options:
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To send a pre-composed message:

Pre-composed messages are commonly used text messages that are pre-programmed so that you no longer need to key in your message. To send a pre-composed message, simply key in the number of the message you wish to send.

01 – Where are you?
02 – Please call me now.
03 – I'm home already.
04 – I'm at the office now.
05 – I'm on my way there.
06 – Okay!
07 – How are you?
08 – Have a nice day!
09 – Thank you!
10 – I love you.
11 – Happy Birthday!
12 – I will be late.
13 – I will call you later.
14 – I'm sorry.
15 – What time are you coming home?

To send your self-composed message:

As with cellphone texting, just press the number key once, twice, thrice or four times for the letter you wish to use.

* For space, press zero (0).
* For backspace, press star key once (*); To erase whole word, press star key twice (**).
* For punctuation marks, press
  1 – period (.)
  11- comma (,)
  111 - question mark (?)
  1111 – exclamation point (!)
  11111 – dash (-)
* Press pound key twice (##) to end your message.

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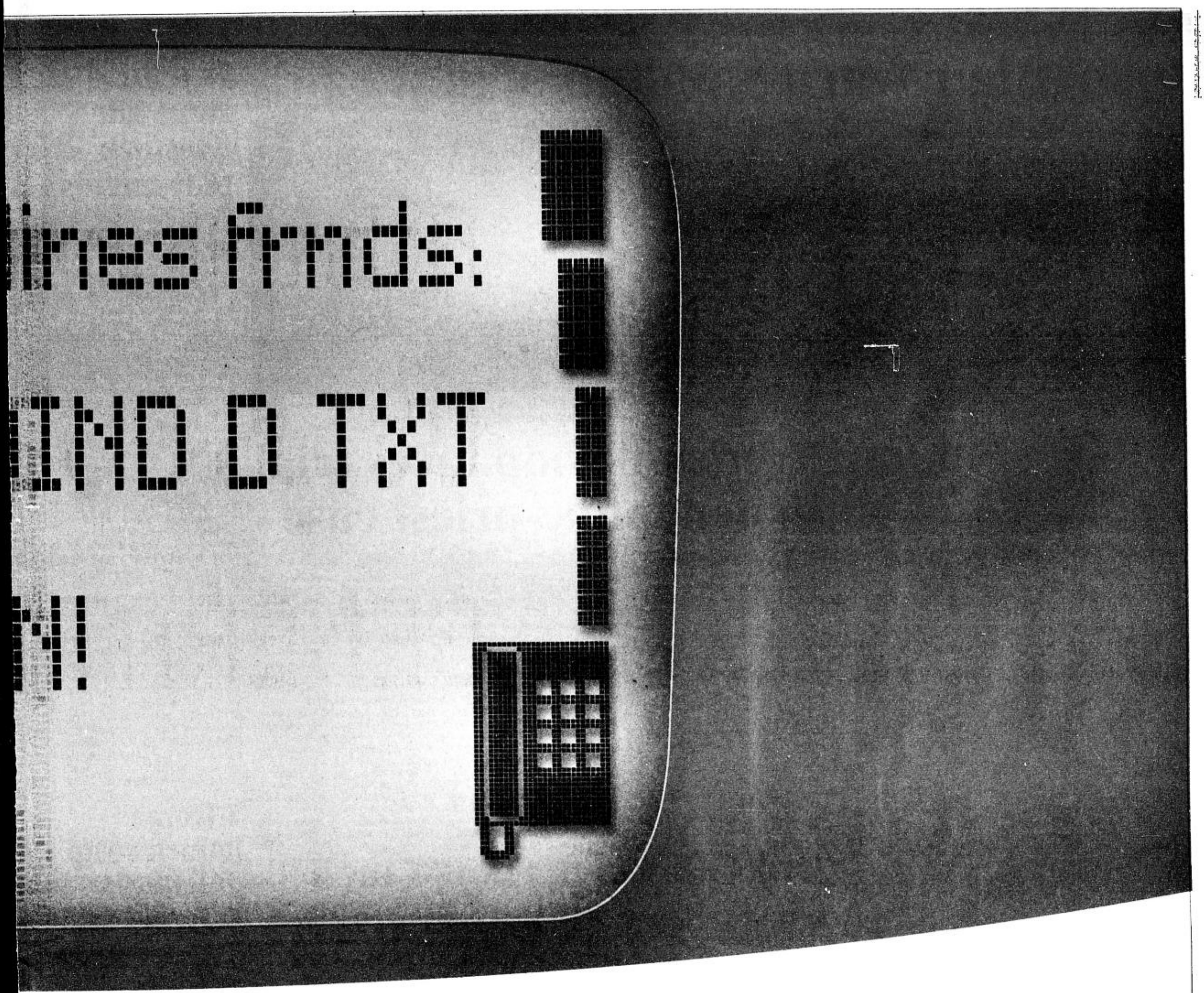

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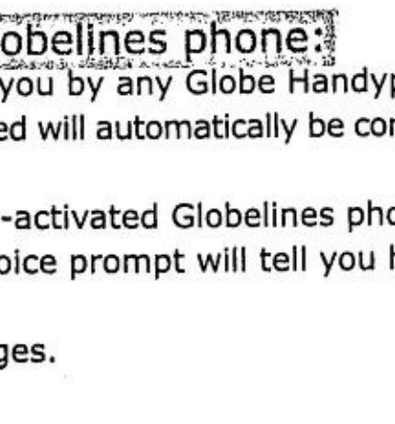

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Communicating Made Easier

Bush, Blair warn Saddam of new raids

CAMP DAVID, Maryland—British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George W. Bush warned Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein Friday against reading their willingness to hone the sanctions against his regime as a sign of weakness.

"A change in a sanction regime that is not working should not be any kind of signal whatsoever to him that he should cross any line and test our will," Bush said. "He has got to understand that we're going to watch him carefully."

"A change in sanctions should not in any way, shape or form embolden Saddam Hussein.

"If we catch him developing weapons of mass destruction, we will take the appropriate action. And if we catch him threatening his neighbors, we will take the appropriate action," said the US leader.

"We look the whole time to see how we can make sanctions more effective, but don't be under any doubt at all of our absolute determination to make sure that the threat of Saddam Hussein is contained," said the prime minister.

"Our quarrel is not with the Iraqi people, who in many ways suffer under the yoke of Saddam Hussein, and therefore it's important that we make sure that the sanctions hit him, Saddam, as effectively as they possibly can," he added.

"This is a man with a record on these issues, both in respect to the murder of thousands of his own people, in respect of the war against Iran, in respect of the annexation of Kuwait," said Blair.

In the face of crumbling global consensus over the sanctions on Baghdad and a world uproar over recent US-British air strikes on Iraqi targets, Washington and London have been looking at possible ways to ease economic and commercial restrictions but tighten those on arms and weapons technology.

Bush said US Secretary of State Colin Powell—who left Friday for a lightning tour of Middle East hotspots—was to "collect thoughts and to listen" to advice from US allies in the region on the best course to chart.

"The prime minister and I both recognize that it is going to be important for us to build a consensus in the region to make the sanctions more effective," said the president. *AFP*

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair hold a joint press conference at Camp David presidential retreat. REUTERS

Britain stops all livestock movements

LONDON—Britain banned all livestock movements inside the country on Friday as it resorted to draconian measures to stamp out the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, so far with little success.

The week-long ban will close down all of Britain's livestock markets and abattoirs, prohibit hunting and also bring a halt to imports of live animals.

But even as the announcement was being made, the worst fears of government vets were confirmed as the number of sites where foot-and-mouth (FMD) had been identified mounted steadily.

It also emerged that at one farm the infection had been present for "two to three weeks"—longer than previously thought and enough time for it to have spread the length and breadth of the country.

Unveiling the new measures, Agriculture Minister Nick Brown said: "There is going to be a complete standstill for the next seven days in the movement of livestock in Great Britain."

"The purpose is to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease while we are trying to extinguish it."

The Meat and Livestock Commission said enough meat had been stockpiled to make sure that supermarket meat counters do not run out. The ban does not apply to movements of poultry.

"Disease appears to have been present for two to three weeks," Brown added. "The Chief Veterinary Officer has advised me that there is a real risk that FMD could appear anywhere in the UK." *AFP*

FLIGHT REUTERS

An ethnic Madurese man helps a woman climb an open truck with her child as they evacuate out of Sampit, Central Kalimantan, Feb. 24. Thousands of terrified refugees crammed onto an Indonesian Nay ship to escape marauding mobs in Borneo as the death toll from a week of ethnic bloodshed reached 210. *(See story on Page 11.)*

French bishop faces trial in pedophile-priest case

CAEN, France—A French bishop has for the first time been ordered to stand trial accused of failing to denounce a priest who raped and sexually abused young boys, legal officials said Friday.

The case of Pierre Pican, bishop of the northern French town of Bayeux, will make French legal history and has stirred strong emotions in a country reeling from a string of recent pedophile scandals involving priests.

Pican, 66, has been charged with failing to report sexual offenses and mistreatment of minors under the age of 15 and will appear in court in June, officials said. He could face up to three years in jail if convicted.

Rene Bissey, a priest in Pican's diocese, was sentenced to 18 years in jail in October 2000 on 11 counts of rape and sexual assault of minors. He abused the boys while he was working in a Normandy parish between 1987 and 1996.

The parents of the victims hold Pican responsible for not reporting Bissey's activities. Pican instead sent him for six months of psychological treatment, after which he returned to parish work.

"He is guilty of having covered up facts he knew about," said the parents' lawyer, Jean Chevais, who filed a complaint about Pican in July 1999 which led to his being put under investigation in January last year.

Pican's lawyer Thierry Massis said that the case would touch on the bishop's right of "professional secrecy."

"Should a bishop denounce his priest?" he asked.

During Bissey's trial, Pican offended both the parents and French public opinion by refusing to give evidence that touched on the investigation into his own conduct.

The father of the one of the victims said in an interview with French public television on Thursday: "It's not about sending Monsignor Pican to jail but to obtain a radical change in the behavior of the church."

Following the revelation of the Bissey-Pican affair, French bishops pledged that in future, the Church would report any priests suspected of sexually assaulting children.

In a statement issued in November last year at Lourdes, in southwest France, they said no bishop "can or wishes to remain passive or even less to cover up criminal acts."

"Priests who are guilty of pedophile actions must answer for them in court. They must make good the ill they have done and bear the weight of the punishment imposed by the church and by society," the statement said. *AFP*

2 Koreas launch swap of letters

SEOUL—South Korea has selected a list of 300 people who will exchange letters with long-lost relatives in communist North Korea, Red Cross officials said yesterday.

Those on the list, whose identities were withheld until they were individually notified, will exchange letters with their Northern relatives on March 15 under an agreement between the two Koreas.

It will be the first contact between the relatives, who were separated during the 1950-53 Korean War.

The communist North will also select a list of 300 people who will be allowed to write to their South Korean relatives for the first time.

Since the two Koreas held a historic summit in June, they have staged two temporary reunions involving 400 family members. A third round of reunions involving 100 people from each side will begin in each other's capitals on Monday.

But tens of thousands of aging people still long to learn the fate of their long-lost relatives. The South has proposed that these people be at least allowed to write to their relatives.

In late January, the North agreed to allow the first-ever correspondence between 300 separated families on each side beginning on March 15. *AP*

Top US Navy admiral goes to Tokyo with presidential apology

WASHINGTON—In a bid to assuage Japanese anger, the US administration is sending a senior Navy admiral to Tokyo next week with a presidential letter and an apology for the sinking of a Japanese trawler that left nine people lost at sea.

Adm. William J. Fallon, the vice chief of naval operations, was named "special envoy to Japan" and will arrive in Tokyo with a letter from President George W. Bush to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

Mori has called it "extremely deplorable" that civilians were at two control stations aboard the USS Greeneville when the submarine hit the fishing boat. It remains to be determined whether the presence of 16 civilians—including two at the control stations—contributed to mistakes that led to the accident.

Fallon will "explain the progress of the ongoing investigation," the Navy said in a statement Friday.

The admiral will discuss prospects for salvaging the Japanese vessel, which was accidentally rammed Feb. 9 and sank in 600 meters of water off Honolulu. The boat was on a trip to teach Japanese high school students commercial fishing, and four of the missing are students.

US officials say reports of serious crew errors aboard the Greeneville right before the collision raised the possibility that the Navy's formal investigation could spread beyond three officers already named as subjects of the probe to include a sailor whose job was to plot positions of nearby vessels and possibly other people.

The Washington Times and The Washington Post reported Friday that the enlisted man, known as the sub's "fire control technician," did not inform the skipper that sonar readings indicated a surface vessel was closing to within 2,000 meters.

The Times, quoting an unidentified Navy source, said if the ship's estimated range had been conveyed to the sub's captain, Cmdr. Scott Waddle, he would have conducted his periscope search of the surface differently. *AP*

Did Clinton pardon 4 men for Hillary vote exchange?

NEW YORK—Federal prosecutors are investigating whether former President Bill Clinton commuted the sentences of four convicted swindlers in exchange for Hasidic Jewish votes for his wife during her run for the Senate, The Associated Press learned Friday.

The four men were members of the Hasidic community of New Square, which voted overwhelmingly for Hillary Rodham Clinton when she was elected in November.

US Attorney Mary Jo White is investigating their commutations as part of a probe that is also said to include the pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich, according to a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Julia Payne, a spokesperson for the former president, referred all questions to Clinton lawyer David Kendall, who did not immediately return calls for comment.

"Senator Clinton has spoken about these commutations on several occasions and we do not have anything to add at this time," said her spokesperson, Karen Dunn.

Ms Clinton has said previously that she did not discuss the men's fate with Hasidic leaders before the election but sat in on a December meeting with supporters of clemency for them. However, she said she played no part in her husband's decision.

"I did not play any role whatsoever," she said last month. "I had no opinion about it."

It is unusual for a first lady to sit in on a clemency meeting.

The commutations are part of a growing furor over several of the 140 pardons the president made on his last day in office. Also under scrutiny are a pardon and a commutation for which Ms Clinton's brother Hugh Rodham received nearly $400,000; two pardons on which her campaign treasurer performed legal work; and the possible role of the former president's half-brother, Roger Clinton, in some other cases.

The AP also learned Friday that Rodham has not yet repaid all the money he collected.

Legal sources said that Rodham repaid the full $200,000 that pardon recipient Almon Glenn Braswell sent him as a "success fee" but has managed to repay only part of the billable fees he collected from the family of Carlos Vignali, whose prison sentence on drug charges was commuted by Clinton.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, would say only that Rodham had reimbursed "a significant amount" and was attempting to arrange to repay the rest.

Ms Clinton's office reacted with surprise to the news.

"We had been assured yesterday by his attorney that all the money had been repaid. We only learned late today that it hadn't been. But we are being told that steps are being taken to ensure it is all repaid," said Jim Kennedy, a spokesperson for the senator.

Separately, the Florida Bar Association said Friday that it is investigating a complaint filed against Hugh Rodham, who has a law office in Fort Lauderdale.

Bar spokesperson Francine Walker would not discuss the complaint filed Thursday by an unidentified person. A message left at Rodham's law office was not returned. *AP*

MASS EXTINCTION

Asteroid may have caused death of 90 percent of life on Earth

WASHINGTON—History's most devastating extinction, the eath of almost 90 percent of life on Earth, may have been triggered by the impact of an asteroid or comet like the one that much later killed off the dinosaurs.

Researchers analyzing the chemistry of ancient deposits in China and Japan concluded that a space rock three to seven miles across smashed into the Earth about 251 million years ago, the time of the Permian-Triassic extinction event.

The study appears Friday in the journal Science.

In what has been called "the great dying," 90 percent of all ocean species and 70 percent of all land species vanished within a short period of time —a key event in the history of life on Earth.

"This was the mother of all extinctions," said Luann Becker, a University of Washington geochemist and lead author of the study.

"What makes it so remarkable is that virtually all marine life and a good portion of land life forms were eliminated in a very short period time."

Large rocks from space smashing to Earth can set off an immense wave of superheated vapor that can roll for hundreds of miles, killing everything in its path. Impacts can also cause tidal waves and send millions of tons of dust and vapor into the atmosphere to darken the sun for months and chill the Earth.

The Permian-Triassic impactor, either an asteroid or comet, left behind subtle deposits of buckminsterfullerenes, or "Buckyballs," a form of carbon shaped like a volley ball with a hollow cage-like cavity inside.

Becker said she and her colleagues found within those cavities a helium isotope that is thought to be of extraterrestrial origin.

That, she said, provides strong evidence that the Permian-Triassic extinction was either triggered or speeded up by a massive object falling from space.

During the Permian, the Earth teemed with life. There were sharks, reptiles, ancestral dinosaurs, trilobites, a type of sea creature, and lush vegetation. The extinction marked the end of the Permian geological period and was followed by the rise of the dinosaurs during the Triassic period.

Death of dinosaurs

The dinosaurs are thought to have died off 65 million years ago after an asteroid some six miles across hit the Earth in what is called the Cretaceious-Tertiary boundary event. The dinosaur demise led to the rise of mammals and, eventually, humans.

"These two extinctions are like bookends for the age of the dinosaurs," said Robert Poreda, a professor at the University of Rochester and co-author of the study. "The Permian-Triassic boundary helped to usher in the age of the dinosaurs, and the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary snuffed it out."

Although impacts from space played a role in both extinctions, Becker said there were distinct differences in the two events.

For one thing, the Earth was different. At the time of the Permian-Triassic impact, all the continents were together as a single land mass, called Pangea. By the time of the dinosaur extinction, some of the continents were separated and moving apart.

Just where the Permian-Triassic object hit the Earth is not known, said Becker. The dinosaur killer asteroid carved a massive crater in Mexico's Yucatan region.

Another difference is the chemical evidence left by the impactors. The worldwide geological formation marking the Cretaceous-Tertiary boundary is enriched with iridium, a chemical from outer space.

The Permian-Triassic material studied by Becker and her colleagues was not enriched in iridium, but it did contain the telltale helium isotopes trapped inside the Buckyballs.

Richard K. Bambach, a professor of paleontology at Virginia Tech, said there may have been different "kill mechanisms" in the two extinctions. Bambach said that during both extinctions there were massive lava flows underway when the impacts occurred. *AP*

AN ARTIST'S conception shows an asteroid crashing into Earth in an event that scientists believe occurred in the Caribbean region about 65 million years ago. REUTERS

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Marshal Plan for Mindanao bared

Guingona says project will promote peace with rebels

GUINGONA

BY JUAN ESCANDOR JR.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

NAGA CITY—Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. gave assurances that the Philippine government will lay down a mini-Marshal Plan for Mindanao in support of the peace process it is working out with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Guingona said the plan would be patterned after the idea forwarded by Gen. Marshal who initiated the recovery of Europe from the ravages of war.

He said the mini-Marshal Plan will be implemented by his office in coordination with the national government.

The plan will comprise the economic measure of the government efforts to bring peace in war-ravaged areas in the South.

Guingona said the funding for the mini-Marshal Plan would be generated by mobilizing foreign donors through the foreign affairs office to share with the equities in building economic infrastructures.

"The huge budget deficit of P225 billion constrains the government to finance the mini-Marshal Plan but the potentials are there," he said.

Guingona said the necessary studies have already been taken and several Islamic nations have expressed their desire to give as much as $10 million in grants and equities.

He said the solution to peace in Mindanao will only be resolved if the root causes of poverty and inequity are addressed.

The Vice President said one of the thrusts of the mini-Marshal Plan is the development of seaweed farms in Mindanao to include processing plants.

The plan also includes the total electrification of Sulu where seaweeds are grown in abundance in order to compliment the circumference road that Nur Misuari is going to build.

Guingona said the mini-Marshal Plan will make Mindanao the food basket of the country and priority shall be given to farmers.

He said the plan is expected to revive the economy to complete the peace process.

Guingona was chosen by President Macapagal-Arroyo from among at least three candidates for vice president.

According to Ms Macapagal, she chose Guingona to be vice president because the former senator could best represent the concerns of Mindanao.

Guingona is from Butuan City.

A MESSAGE TO THE PUBLIC FROM

MONTEREY®

MONTEREY FOODS CORPORATION

There have been recent concerns regarding the importation of beef products from Europe contaminated with mad cow disease.

In the case of Monterey Foods Corporation, more than 95% of its beef comes from live cattle imported from Australia that have been preselected based on stringent Monterey quality and health standards.

The balance of imports are frozen beef coming from a variety of sources which include Australia and South America. In compliance with the Department of Agriculture ban, we have stopped importing and accepting delivery of beef from Europe.

Importantly, all frozen beef imports regardless of source are covered by:

A. Veterinary Quarantine Clearance issued by the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, which authorizes the importation.

B. Veterinary certificates issued by the country of origin declaring that the beef is "...sound, healthful and fit for human consumption."

For over 32 years, the Monterey name has always stood for uncompromising and unconditional quality. For that reason, our operations are characterized by the highest standards of safety and hygiene. In fact, our Monterey meat processing plant in Cavite has been consistently adjudged as the Country's Best Slaughterhouse for the past several years by the National Meat Inspection Commission of the Department of Agriculture.

We value quality because we value our customers.

Fil-Am groups pay homage to 'toxic warrior'

BY ELIZABETH MARCELO
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—The United States-based Filipino/American Coalition for Environmental Solutions (Faces) launched last week a US-wide public awareness and advocacy campaign in commemoration of Crizel Jane Valencia, the six-year old "toxic warrior" who died of leukemia on Feb. 25 last year.

At the time of her death, Crizel had received international media attention as a witness for environmental injustice and for her drawings, which were produced as cards to raise funds for her own treatment and those of other victims of toxic waste contamination.

Crizel drew the cards from her home at the Madapdap resettlement site near the former Clark Air Base.

Former workers at the US naval base in Subic, now the Subic Bay Freeport, vowed to join the global campaign to pressure the US government to take responsibility for the cleanup of its former bases in the Philippines and the treatment of toxic waste victims.

"This is a very powerful pressure group," according to Myrla Baldonado, People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup executive director, who attended the first congress of Yakap-Subic.

Yakap or "Yaman ng Kalikasan Aming Pinangangalagaan" is composed mostly of former base workers from Olongapo and Zambales.

"Crizel's life and death demonstrate the callousness of the US military. It is unconscionable that the US, with full knowledge of the danger of military contamination, is unwilling to help the Philippines, a country with few financial and technical resources, conduct a comprehensive cleanup," said Christina Leaño, Faces coordinator, in an e-mail message sent to the Social Action Center of Zambales.

Crizel was one of several children who suffered from serious ailments. These children were conceived and born while their parents were housed at the Clark Air Base Command (Cabcom) evacuation center in Pampanga.

Families forced to stay at Cabcom for years in the absence of resettlement sites were documented as suffering from abnormal rates of cancer, leukemia, heart conditions and birth defects.

Leaño said the US Armed Forces has been forced to conduct cleanup in Germany and Canada and in the US but it has not done anything in the Philippines.

When the US military pulled out of Clark and Subic, it failed to inform the Philippine government of toxic materials it left behind. The full extent of the contamination is not yet known but various studies found high levels of lead, benzene, asbestos, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury and other toxins in the sites.

A 1992 report of the US General Accounting Office said Air Force and Navy officials had identified contaminated sites with "significant environmental damage."

Former workers at the Ship Repair Facility (SRF) in the former US naval base attest to the dumping of toxic materials in various sites.

Rolando Laguatan of Olongapo said he was one of six workers who buried more than 22 drums of cyanide at the Subic landfill in 1972.

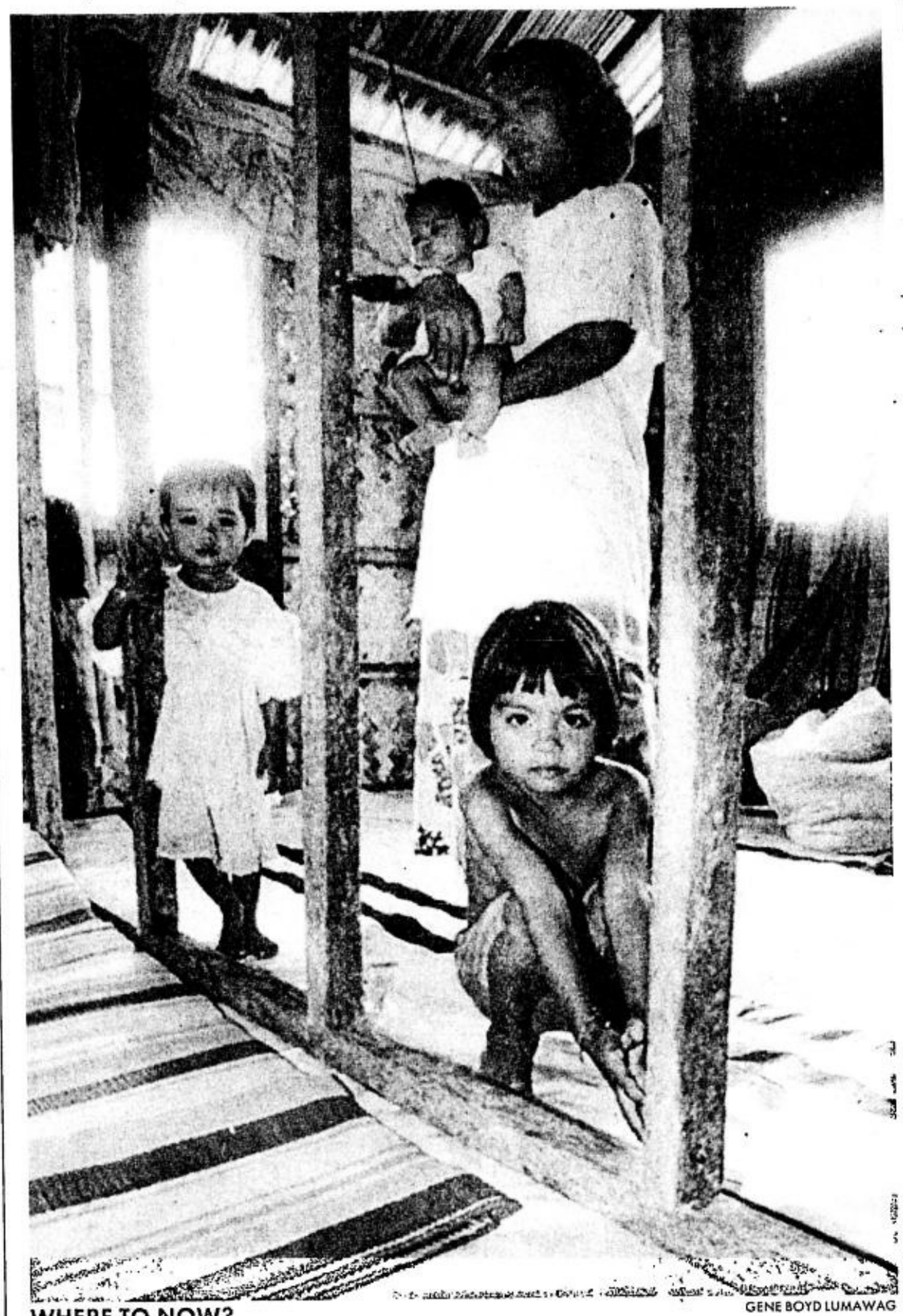
Fermin Lagmay, who worked as a rigger from 1967 to 1977 and from 1980 to 1985, said excess mercury from temperature gauges of ships and the base foundry was dumped in the waters off Grande Island here.

Antonio del Carmen, foreman and over-all supervisor of 13 SRF shops from 1952 to 1976, confirmed negligence in the enforcement of safety measures in the former US naval base.

"There were no safety suits and air respirators for Filipino workers during my time," he said.

This explains why asbestosis is prevalent among Filipinos who worked in the naval base before 1978, he said.

Asbestos, which was used as insulation material for pipes and air conditioning units, was found to have toxic effects in the early 1970s. It takes 15 to 20 years for asbestosis to manifest.



GENE BOYD LUMAWAG

WHERE TO NOW?
It's sickening to even think that the first casualties of war are people who are caught in it. But reality sinks in and bullets that sometimes don't hit their mark find their way into people's lives, driving them out of their homes, changing their lives forever.

Recruiter takes off with ₱1.3M

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A man, who posed as packaging supervisor of a Taiwanese firm, recruited 131 workers, brought them to Metro Manila and ran off with some P1.3 million he collected from them.

The workers, mostly from Zambales and Olongapo, identified the suspected illegal recruiter as Marvin Hernandez.

They reported the case to the Western Police District in Manila where they claimed they were given a shabby treatment.

The workers told WPD police officers that they had video footage of Hernandez. The police officers took not only the tape but also their video camera, purportedly for "evidence purposes" and told them "*kung ayaw n'yo, sa iba na kayo mag*-report (if you refuse to submit these, then bring your complaint to other stations)."

The camera was returned later when the workers came back with Olongapo-based journalists and non-government organization representatives who interceded for them.

Informed about the plight of the workers, the Olongapo chapters of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) and Sanlakas came to the workers' rescue and arranged for their transportation and lawyer.

The workers said Hernandez offered them work as packagers and forklift operators in Taiwan with a monthly salary of $550 (P26,400).

Hernandez said he was authorized by his company to hire workers from the Philippines.

"He's glib and easily convinced us," said two workers recruited by Hernandez from Castillejos.

The group's spokesman, Raul Pagaduan, said they were initially asked to pay P1,200 each for the processing of their passports.

Last Saturday, they were taken by Hernandez to Manila allegedly to facilitate their medical checkup and training with the Technical Education Skills and Development Authority (Tesda).

On reaching Manila, they were divided into four groups and billeted in two apartments and a hotel in Sta. Mesa, and in another apartment in Sta. Ana. ***Elizabeth Marcelo and Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Anti-Erap forces question 'Hero' award given mayor

ANGELES CITY—A group affiliated with the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Pilipino 2 said the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) and its officials allegedly misled Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin into conferring a People's Heroes award on Angeles Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, a known supporter of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Officials of the Coalition for the Ouster of Erap (Core), the Kompil 2 chapter in Pampanga, said the award on Lazatin was "a slap to democracy and an insult to Kapampangans who, by the thousands, held sustained protest actions to oust an immoral president."

"What did he do to earn the award? Mr. Lazatin had in fact blocked, sabotaged anti-Estrada rallies in Pampanga and even herded Angeles city residents to pro-Estrada rallies," Councilor Alex Cauguiran, Core-Kompil 2 spokesperson, told the INQUIRER Thursday.

Lazatin confirmed that he received the award from Sin last Wednesday during the 15th anniversary celebration of People Power I in Makati City.

Lazatin defended Copa and its leader, former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr., saying the latter did not help him get the award through the backdoor.

"I helped protect the President (Macapagal-Arroyo) and the Constitution. That's the reason why my role was recognized," Lazatin told the INQUIRER by telephone.

He said he was part of the team that planned the rescue of President Macapagal-Arroyo by bringing her to the Cojuangcos' Hacienda Luisita in nearby Tarlac in case Estrada ordered the violent dispersal of protesters at the Edsa Shrine.

Lazatin, a Lakas-NUCD member but who worked closely with the erstwhile ruling Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, said he was "not actually an anti-Estrada man." He did not elaborate except to say that he "worked silently" against the deposed president.

Lawyer Edgardo Pamintuan, former Angeles City mayor and Core-Kompil 2 convenor in Pampanga, had appealed to Sin to "correct the injustice."

In his Feb. 20 letter to the cardinal, Pamintuan said the "actuation of the mayor (Lazatin) smacks of opportunism and does not do justice to those nameless, faceless and countless courageous Filipinos who sacrificed their time and effort in the arduous struggle but never sought recognition, reward or award."

Pamintuan told Sin that Lazatin never joined any protest action and had publicly called Kompil 2 leaders "destabilizers of the Estrada administration."

"In the dying days of the Estrada regime, he filed a three-day leave of absence on Jan. 17-19 at the height of our struggle to remove Estrada and hied off to Bacolod under the pretext of attending a seminar but instead was reportedly seen buying fighting cocks," Pamintuan said in his letter to Sin.

"When the dust has cleared and a new government was born, he is now shouting to high heavens that he too participated in the Oust Erap movement by doing it 'underground,' having talked to some military leaders to withdraw their support from the Erap administration," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURPRISE

Naga folk bury remains of old Christians

NAGA CITY—Residents of this city reburied the other day fragments of several hundreds of 17th century early Christians who were buried in the grounds of the San Francisco Church after these were accidentally excavated during the start of its renovation last year.

The three boxes of skeletal fragments were buried at the San Francisco Church belfry, the remaining original structure of the ancient church after a Mass for its memorial was said.

Prof. Danilo Gerona, Bicolano historian, said the skeletal remains could have included those of Fray Francisco de San Gregorio, 10th bishop of the Diocese of Caceres, who was buried here in 1661; Fray Antonio de Sto. Domingo who died in 1701; and Fray Francisco Argonenses, the incumbent parish priest of Cagsaua when he died in 1863 while on an official visit here.

Gerona said the place where the San Francisco Church stood was a huge cemetery where the earliest native converts to Christianity were laid to rest.

"The existence of the graveyard in San Francisco probably antedated the advent of Spanish missionaries but was eventually converted to a Christian cemetery when the parish was established," the Bicolano historian added.

He said the place where the San Francisco Church was located had not been found to have evidence of "habitational history."

"There were no signs of sea shells which the early natives would scatter around their huts and in areas where they resided. Not even a sporadic presence of shells was found near the bones," he added.

Gerona said another evidence that the area had always been a burial site was that the ground near the bones and the level of the bones have no sign of having been compacted.

"The ground at the San Francisco Church was soft, with traces of thin layer of burnt earth. This line of burnt earth could have taken place due to the method of ground-clearing the natives resorted to," he said.

Gerona said that after the conversion to Christian cemetery, the San Francisco Church grounds remained as burial site of early Bicolano Christians and clergy members.

The San Francisco Church, he said, is a significant historical landmark in Bicol because this is where the history of Franciscan evangelization began and flourished and where the Spanish sovereignty ended.

He said the history of Franciscan evangelization was preserved because the Franciscan friars who left the region after the fall of Spain in 1896 were able to bring with them documents, which are now in the Franciscan archive in Madrid.

Gerona, who has conducted several researches in Spain, said the Franciscan friars who came here to spread Christianity belonged to the first batch of missionaries who arrived in the Philippines in 1577.

He said the Franciscan started the mission work in Naga in 1578, which peaked in the late 1579. ***Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Soldiers stumble on abandoned camp of MILF

COTABATO CITY—Government forces last week discovered an alleged abandoned training camp and a tunnel which housed modern communication facilities of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Barira, Maguindanao, the military here said.

Also found were satellite dishes reportedly used by Al Haj Murad, MILF vice chair for military.

The discovery came the day President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended the military offensive against MILF forces in Mindanao in a gesture of goodwill that will hopefully pave the way for the resumption of the stalled peace talks.

Army Maj. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said the abandoned camp, known as Al Jamaan Al-Islamia academy, was discovered by elements of the 16th Infantry Battalion while patrolling the hinterlands of Camp Abubakar.

Camp Abubakar, MILF's former largest camp in Mindanao, fell into government control in June last year.

"This could be the reason why the guerrillas have been coming back every now and then, trying to regain control of the fallen camp," Ando said.

The training camp in Barangay Tugaig, Barira, Maguindanao also served as headquarters of MILF's First Battalion, Inner Guard Brigade, National Guard Division, an elite unit of the MILF composed mostly of foreign-trained guerrillas who provide security to MILF chair Salamat Hashim and the rebels' Central Committee.

Ando said soldiers found a two-story building that were well camouflaged and could not be seen by helicopter pilots.

In the training camp, soldiers recovered a supply room with about 40 rocket-propelled grenades, bags of ammonium nitrate, two gallons of gasoline and ingredients for bombs.

Ando said 16th IB soldiers discovered a tunnel with improvised landmines, rifle grenades, demolition paraphernalia, fuses of mortars, and drums containing chemicals.

The tunnel, which has many exit points, connects to various sitios and villages of Barira town, also within Camp Abubakar.

Ando believed these equipment and war materials were left by Moro rebels who hurriedly left Camp Abubakar at the height of Army air and ground assaults in May last year. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Payumo says Subic unrest reason for him to stay

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo said he has decided not to resign and run for congressman because of the latest attempt to disrupt operations at the freeport and to protect workers allegedly being intimidated and coerced to abandon their posts.

"I'll admit it. The thought entered my mind *pero dahil sa mga nangyayari ngayon, kasama na ang mga pananakot sa mga empleyadong katulad ninyong nakikipagtulungan na* (but because of these developments, including threats to employees like you who are cooperating), I have decided not to file my candidacy as (Bataan) congressman," Payumo said before employees of the SBMA and its subsidiary, the Freeport Services Corp. (FSC).

The employees' general assembly was convened Friday, the third day of the protest action initiated by security personnel and ground maintenance workers of SBMA and FSC.

The workers are calling for the ouster of Payumo and Manuel Aurelio, FSC president, saying that both should be held accountable for alleged irregularities, mismanagement and unfair labor practices in the freeport over the past two or three years.

The involvement of the Mamamayan ng Olongapo Laban sa Abuso sa Volunteers at Empleyado (Molave), headed by Edwin Piano, former SBMA employee welfare division chief, in the protests has fueled suspicions among SBMA and FSC officials that the workers' mass action is politically motivated.

Molave is being linked to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, former SBMA chair.

But Piano dismissed these, saying several groups of security personnel have been asking their assistance since October last year.

He said Molave has helped in at least 30 labor cases in the freeport, including about eight major cases involving large groups of workers of Subic business locators.

Mike Pusing, Olongapo City information officer, earlier said Gordon has maintained a "hands-off policy" on SBMA-related issues since he assumed his Cabinet post.

"Ayaw nga niyang pakialaman eh. Ang sinabi niya, may iba namang puwedeng tumulong sa kanila (He does not want to meddle with SBMA-related affairs. He told the volunteers that there are other groups and individuals who could help them)," Pusing said.

For the first time, Payumo publicly admitted that he had considered running for the congressional seat in the first district of Bataan, which he held before deposed President Joseph Estrada appointed him SBMA chair in 1998.

Under Republic Act 7227, the Base Conversion and Development Act that also embodies the SBMA Charter, the SBMA chair has a fixed term of six years and could only be removed for cause.

Nonetheless, since Estrada's ouster last month, Payumo had maintained that he is giving President Macapagal-Arroyo a "free hand" in the matter of the SBMA chairmanship.

Payumo said the workers who walked out of their jobs should be guaranteed due process, even as he directed SBMA and FSC officials to issue return to work orders.

Aurelio gave the workers until Monday to return to their posts.

Payumo also announced a package of measures providing for economic benefits that are among the issues raised by the protesting workers.

Among these were the reinstatement of benefits lost by FSC workers who were absorbed by the SBMA, the endorsement to the FSC board of directors of the recommendation for a 10 percent salary adjustment for FSC employees.

Aurelio, however, refused to formally communicate to the workers the action taken by SBMA and FSC officials and said he expects them to be informed by their fellow employees who have been told of the management response.

"They refused to talk to us," he said, accusing the workers of agreeing to negotiate and then backing out.

But the workers maintained that they wanted the management's action put in writing since they submitted their grievances to the management in black and white. ***Elizabeth Marcelo, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ CAROLYN O. ARGUILLAS, Bureau Chief

Ozamiz remembers ferry bombings

BY MERPU P. ROA
Ozamiz City

EXACTLY a year ago today, Liwayway Demecillo quietly stood up from her seat inside a Super 5 aircon bus, even as she heard screams and saw two buses at the front portion of the Our Lady of Mediatrix ferry engulfed by fire.

Jampacked with vehicles and passengers, the ferry was barely a hundred meters away from the Ozamiz pier when two muffled explosions followed by bursts of fire struck the two air-conditioned buses.

As burning bodies darted out of the two buses and the rest of the passengers jumped overboard, the 68-year-old Demecillo walked carefully toward the rear part of the ferry, took out her eyeglasses, placed it inside her bag, then jumped.

With one hand holding on to her shoulder bag and a shopping bag, she swam to the left portion of the pier, about 200 meters away, where four persons helped her to safe grounds.

A number of those who jumped drowned because of panic while the rest of the 39 casualties died from severe burns.

The City Disaster Coordinating Council (CDCC) listed 41 others injured while 12 families reported missing relatives. Two weeks after, the CDCC decided to bury in mass graves seven badly charred bodies which were never conclusively identified by relatives.

OZAMIZ government officials and civil society leaders commemorate today the first anniversary of the bombing of ferry boat Mediatrix. FILEPHOTO

Scars

Emma Anteola was in a hurry to cross the placid Panguil Bay.

It was mid-afternoon and she was caught in the midst of a busy traffic of people and vehicles in the port of Mukas, Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte.

She managed to catch the 3 p.m. ferry trip for Ozamiz City, secure in the thought she would be home by nightfall in Ramon Magsaysay, Zamboanga del Sur, where her two-year old child was waiting.

When the ferry, loaded with passengers from as far as Davao City, was about to dock to its port of destination, two successive blasts were heard from below the passenger deck, in the storage area for vehicle cargoes. The blasts triggered a fast-developing fire that burned the M/V Our Lady of Mediatrix.

Then it was pandemonium. Each passenger struggled for survival.

Emma was one of those lucky souls who survived. She suffered burns on her back, arms and thighs while escaping from the burning ferry.

The scars continue to remind her of that tragic day.

As months passed, however, Emma has learned to accept the fate that befell her.

But she wishes peace would truly reign in this beleaguered Mindanao island so her now three-year old child may not suffer the same fate.

Prayers

In commemoration of the first year anniversary of the Mediatrix bombing, the city government is spearheading today an early morning prayer-service at the site where the ill-fated ferryboat was about to dock.

Top local government officials and employees, civil society leaders and the religious who vow "never to allow a repeat of such cowardly acts to disturb the city's peace" will gather for the prayer activity.

Jonathan Rubio, senior executive assistant to the city mayor, said it is their hope that speedy justice be meted out to the perpetrators to assuage the feelings of the bereaved families.

Most fitting

He said law enforcement agencies must recommit themselves to the vigilant defense of peace and order, pointing particularly to the maritime security agencies.

These twin objectives are the "most fitting sense of commemorating the sad event," he said.

The early morning activity will start with a holy Mass after which Mayor Benjamin Fuentes, Vice-Mayor Elvira D. Tan, top officials of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and of Daima Shipping (owner of Mediatrix) will pay tribute to the fallen victims and courageous survivors of the tragedy.

A floral offering to honor the memory of those who were killed, will cap the ceremonies.

At 3:45 this afternoon, everyone inside the port compound will be invited to a reflection.

After this, vehicles inside the compound as well as ships on dock will be enjoined to blow their horns in solemn remembrance of the dead and as a symbol of their loud call that no such incident will happen again.

The afternoon activity is spearheaded by the Mindanao Institute of Journalism (MinJourn) and the Misamis Occidental Press Club (MOPC) in partnership with the PPA.

In retrospect, Demecillo, now 69, cited her faith in God as having given her the presence of mind to do the things she did with calmness.

"I guess it's that assurance that even death could not scare you anymore because your life is totally in the hands of God," she said.

People's Candidates

THE INTEGRITY of a candidate should be given importance by voters instead of his ability to spend and the party to which he belongs, Bishop Generoso Camiña of the Diocese of Digos in Davao del Sur, said.

"Vote for the (integrity of the) person, not the money, not the party," Camiña said.

Camiña's pronouncements came in the wake of efforts by Church-based organizations to come up with a line-up of "People's Candidates."

Earlier, the Diocesan Political Apostolate convened several organizations, including those belonging to other congregations, in the hope of coming up with a list of candidates whom people from the grassroots nominated for various local positions.

Although the list is not yet final, the group has come up with various names, mostly first-time politicians, including a ranking official of a Catholic school.

"In the old days, the politicians decide that they are the servants of the people. Now, it's the people who will decide whom they want to serve them," Camiña said.

Camiña said politicians with good track records may be included in the list of "People's Candidates."

Camiña's pronouncements led a number of residents to say the Catholic Church is exerting efforts to push for their favored candidate.

But Camiña said, "the clergy will be neutral. We will not support any candidate although we are supporting endeavors such as (these) in the hope that we could finally attain change in the way we do politics," he said.

In Cagayan de Oro City, employees of the Commission on Elections in Northern Mindanao are busy distributing leaflets urging voters to be vigilant during the elections on May 14.

"We shall post them in government offices and other public places. We hope many nongovernment organizations would come and help us distribute the leaflets," said lawyer Virgilio Garcillano, Comelec regional director for Northern Mindanao.

Garcillano said he came up with the idea of mass-producing the leaflets because of the vigilance of citizens' groups, following People Power II.

"We could have solicited help from the printing presses but we did not, out of delicadeza. Many of the printers are vying for contracts with us," he said.

"It's better this way," he added.

In Visayan, the leaflets read: "For the sake of your children's future, don't sell your votes."

"Safeguard the sanctity of the ballot. Be vigilant on Election Day," said another leaflet.

Garcillano said Comelec employees are taking turns distributing and posting the leaflets in government offices and public places.

He said they would print as many as 15,000 leaflets until April.

Many of the leaflets will be mass-produced through the Comelec's two photocopying machines, Garcillano said.

"This is the most critical election we have since Edsa 1. More people are interested in its outcome," he said.

Garcillano said more voters are interested in finding ways to put a stop to the dishonest ways unscrupulous politicians would do to win the elections.

"Some politicians hire all available public vehicles on Election Day so voters would find it difficult to commute to the polling places," he said. *Allan A. Nawal and Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Clearing the path to peace

BY PATRICIO P. DIAZ

COMMENTARY

TWO news reports Thursday last week and last Sunday do not bode well for the resumption of the peace talks between the Government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. Both reveal a state of confrontation, the attitude, which obstructs peace.

In the first report, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes said that unless the commander-in-chief decides to the contrary, the Armed Forces will not vacate the MILF camps. His emotional justification of the AFP position is understandable, but the issue can be addressed positively.

In the second report, 6,000 residents evacuated three barangays in Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao, due to the AFP military operations against the MILF forces in the area. This shows that, minus their camps, the MILF forces still have the strength to challenge the AFP.

Basic Demand

In demanding for the return of their camps and in developing the Pikit-Pagalungan area where the three villages are, into a new camp, the MILF is asserting the Muslim ancestral right to actual and historical Muslim lands.

Respect for this right is one of their basic demands.

In asserting the government's sovereign right over the same lands, the AFP has challenged the MILF's claim to Muslim ancestral and historical right.

As long as this confrontation continues, there will be no peace despite the peace talks.

Instead of confrontation, the Muslim demand, now expressed by the MILF rebellion, should be viewed with understanding.

Then Datu Udtog Matalam, as chair of the Muslim Independence Movement, asked that 100,000 hectares in each province in Muslim Mindanao be reserved for the Muslims.

In his manifesto, he said the granting of lands to the Christians should be stopped. They, the Christians, had acquired more than enough of Mindanao lands while most of the Muslims were still landless. The truth Datu Udtog spoke of is still true today.

The MILF's bloody assertion of the Muslim right to Muslim lands underscores the problem of Muslim landlessness. The Manila government is duty-bound to solve this problem, an obligation so neglected and long overdue.

Viewed positively, the Government and the Muslims, whether represented by the MILF or any other Moro rebel group, should not be fighting each other, but instead should be joining hands to solve the problem of landlessness.

In reality, government sovereign right and Muslim ancestral right to Muslim lands are complementary, not in conflict.

Declare an End

But before this thorny problem can be positively addressed, the all-out war declared by then President Joseph Estrada should be formally and officially ended. A ceasefire will not do. The government and the MILF are still in actual war under that all-out war declaration by the Estrada government.

Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita's plan to see personally MILF Chair Salamat Hashim to assure him of his safety and of the suspension of the arrest warrant against him and other MILF officials will not end the all-out war declaration.

The Macapagal administration should call a special meeting of government and MILF negotiators to officially and formally end the all-out war. And corollary to this, the MILF Chair will lift his proclamation of the *jihad*.

Development

It is during this special meeting that the Government and the MILF can agree on how to develop the MILF camps. These camps are sprawling areas.

They should be distributed to the landless Muslims giving the MILF fighters the first priority.

General Reyes said the AFP is developing the camps. But he did not say how and for whom. These camps must be developed by the Muslims and for the Muslims, with the government supporting.

Actively involving the Muslims in solving their landlessness with the government supporting is the best concrete expression of sincerity and confidence between the Government and the Moro Front. This is peace and development with justice, honor and dignity.

Ceasefire

At the same special meeting, the AFP and the MILF can agree on a ceasefire for the duration of the GRP-MILF peace talks as part of the agreement to end the all-out war and to lift the proclamation of the *jihad*.

At present, the GRP panel is trying to make the AFP and the MILF agree on a long ceasefire. Having this ceasefire while the all-out war declaration and the *jihad* proclamation are still in effect is like putting the cart before the horse.

It should not be presumed that the ceasefire the GRP panel is working out would tacitly end the all-out war declaration and the *jihad* proclamation.

It will take the President and the MILF Chair to end the effects of the declaration and the proclamation.

Filling the Vacuum

Even with the ceasefire after the lifting of the all-out war declaration and of the *jihad* proclamation, the peace talks will be on shaky ground.

As in the past, assurances from both the AFP and the MILF did not stop them from repeatedly breaking the ceasefire.

During the ceasefire, both the AFP and the MILF were in a state of alert or vigilance. Neither side wanted to be surprised by the other. Essentially, vigilance is suspicion, a kind of a vacuum or a negative state.

In the past, when hostilities broke out, the AFP and the MILF blamed each other for shooting first. This is expected when hostile forces are in a state of alert or vigilance. One suspicious move can break the peace.

This is where undertaking the development of the MILF camps for the landless Muslims while the peace talk is going on may guarantee that the ceasefire will hold. Instead of vigilance, confidence will fill the vacuum as the Government and the MILF unite in the socio-economic development of Muslims.

Success in this parallel undertaking can make the peace process easier to attain. If the Government can show its sincerity and willingness to give the Muslims peace and progress with justice, dignity and honor, the MILF may temper its demands in response.

Department of Agriculture

FULBRIGHT

Fulbright-Philippine Agriculture Scholarships in the United States for 2002-2003

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine American Educational Foundation (PAEF) invite qualified Filipinos to apply for scholarship grants in the United States for degree (Master's and Ph.D.) and non-degree (doctoral enrichment, dissertation research, and postgraduate studies and research) in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Proposals for graduate degree and non-degree study and research will be accepted from eligible candidates working in government, the private sector, and non-government organizations.

All grants are fully funded. The scholarship covers international travel, tuition and fees, monthly maintenance allowance, and health and accident insurance.

Awards will be made through open competition based on individual merit. Grantees must return to the Philippines immediately upon completion of their program in the United States.

Application forms are available at the PAEF office, 3rd Floor, 395 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City 1200 **(after March 31, 2001, applications may be obtained at PAEF's new address: 10th Floor, Ayala Life/FGU Center-Makati, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1200)**; the national, regional and provincial offices of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI); the national and regional offices of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED); state and private colleges and universities of agriculture, forestry and fisheries throughout the Philippines; and the office of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) mission in the Philippines.

Completed applications must be received at the PAEF office by May 31, 2001. Proposals will be reviewed by an independent binational selection committee; those who make the preliminary review will be invited for interviews in late July and early August this year. Successful applicants will be notified of their candidacy in October 2001. They will be placed in appropriate programs and institutions in the United States and will travel to the U.S. to take up their awards beginning September 2002.

Inquiries should be addressed to PAEF at the mailing address indicated, by telephone (895-2993), fax (895-3215) or e-mail (fulbrght@info.com.ph).

Saguisag: Probe Gloria-AFP 'plot'

(From page A1)

than a year ago, while she was in the Cabinet, she was plotting to oust Mr. Estrada, with the help of Messrs. Mendoza, Reyes, Ebdane, Espinosa and Berroya," Saguisag said in his letter.

He was referring to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Angelo Reyes; Deputy Director Leandro Mendoza, acting chief of the Philippine National Police; Gen. Edgardo Espinosa of the AFP Joint Command Staff College; PNP Supt. Reynaldo Berroya; and Gen. Hermogenes Ebdane of the PNP Directorate for Human Resource Development and Doctrination.

Ms Macapagal publicly thanked the five officers at the dinner celebration of the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) honoring the key players of People Power II.

She also said that around Nov. 4, she met with a group close to Reyes, whose chief of staff, Col. Victor Corpus, began talking with her senior aide, Col. Charlie Braganza.

"I must give credit to Col. Victor Corpus. It was about that time when the chief of staff (Reyes) and I were beginning to communicate with each other," she said, adding:

"The middle man in behalf of General Reyes, Col. Victor Corpus, was his chief of staff, and in my behalf, Col. Charlie Braganza, who was my senior aide. And we were talking, but the problem was when would be the moment of truth."

'What they wanted'

Apparently referring to the supposed "plotters," Saguisag told De Villa that "finally, they got what they wanted last month, getting the civil society to fuel (their) secret program to grab power."

"This was not what you and I went to Edsa for in 1986 (I take absolutely no credit for Edsa II), whose anniversary we mark this week," he said.

Saguisag also noted that "this early, the few, the tough, and the proud Marines threatened to dump a rear admiral into the sea."

It was a reference to Rear Admiral Guillermo Wong, who had publicly questioned alleged irregularities in the Marine Corps' procurement of supplies.

As a result of Wong's action, Marine officers demanded his relief.

Wong, who is due to retire in December, has been forced to relinquish his post as Navy flag officer in command.

In explaining why he took the side of Marine officers against Wong, Reyes said that between an individual and an institution, it was the institution that must be preserved.

Saguisag sent "all good wishes" to De Villa, who served as defense secretary immediately after retiring as AFP chief of staff during the term of President Fidel Ramos.

He declared himself a fan of De Villa, "even if you are serving the kind of government we now have, thanks to Mrs. Arroyo's Fearless Five, now role models in the major-league game of breaking the chain of command to get personal benefits."

"And may those concerned learn from the saying (that) loose lips (sink ships). Thanks," Saguisag concluded.

Since January

While speaking at the Copa celebration, the President looked away from her teleprompter and said the five groups offered their support to her at the time public outrage against Estrada was starting to build up.

She did not specify the roles played by the five officers but said she had begun talks with the groups since the outbreak of the BW Resources stock manipulation scandal in January 2000.

Mendoza, then the deputy director heading the transnational crimes division, was the first to approach her in January, the President said.

She said Reyes got in touch with her through conduits in November.

Ms Macapagal also said that Ramos had introduced Ebdane to her, and that Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had introduced her to Espinosa and Berroya.

She was not clear about the dates of these meetings or whether discussions included a plot to oust Estrada.

FIRST DAY: The breakaway of Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos is announced at a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo.

EVERYDAY: Flower and prayer power to soldiers.

SECOND DAY: First tank to hit Edsa is stopped with the bare hands of civilians led by Jojo Borja (head bowed.)

Proudly presenting to the world the way we were

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA / PDI FILES

THIRD DAY: The people celebrate with Ramos and Enrile the departure of the Marcoses—prematurely.

'Go Count the People'

(From page A1)

were supposedly called off because the time was not ripe ("*hindi pa hinog*").

They had also prepared to move out in the aftermath of the bomb attacks that killed scores in Metro Manila on Dec. 30. "If the Estrada government had decided to impose martial law, we would have resisted it," one officer said.

When an angry crowd gathered and grew at the Edsa Shrine after the infamous 11-10 Senate vote to block key evidence in Estrada's impeachment trial, the military officers set Jan. 20 as their new launch date.

Their text message

Two or three days before that Friday, the text message "Show 1 million people at Edsa and the military will be there" circulated on cell phones around Metro Manila, but was dismissed by Estrada administration officials as part of a disinformation campaign.

"We started that (text message)," another officer revealed.

As it turned out, AFP Chief of Staff Reyes, Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado and the entire top brass of the military showed up at the Edsa Shrine on the historic afternoon of Jan. 19, and preempted their plan.

According to the Jan. 20 plan, two F-5's would take off from the Air Force's 5th Strike Wing in Clark Field, Pampanga, as Espinosa was making his speech withdrawing his backing for Estrada.

Almost at the same time, MG-520 attack helicopters would take off from the 15th Strike Wing in Sangley Point, Cavite, to achieve "complete air dominance."

"As previous experience at Edsa I showed, once you have the air, the battle is won," Yap said.

With Reyes' and Mercado's defection, the Espinosa group did not have to be physically present at Edsa. According to them, they continued to man their posts "in case of a counterattack."

But Yap, who was scheduled to fly the next day, decided to go ahead and make the flight. The second pilot who flew the other F-5 holds the rank of Captain.

Tanks

According to the plan for Jan. 20, Espinosa, riding atop a Marine tank, would lead a march to Edsa, and there renounce his support for Estrada and call on other units of the Armed Forces to do the same.

Espinosa was supposed to start from the Philippine Marines headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

But on Jan. 17, to the near panic of the planners, the tanks—seven heavily armed V-300s—were sent to a Marine training base in Ternate, Cavite, to take part in joint exercises with visiting American troops.

They were not scheduled to return to Manila by Jan. 20.

"*Paano yan? Wala tayong tanke* (What are we going to do? We don't have tanks)," one officer gasped.

They tried to reach the tank commanders to divert the armored assets.

"It would be made to appear that some of the tanks needed immediate repairs and had to go back to Manila. This would jibe with the Jan. 20 plan. General Espinosa was to wait for them somewhere on or near Edsa," one officer said.

Commitments

The officers interviewed by the INQUIRER admitted that Espinosa had only a handful of men under his direct command.

But members of the opposition's Council of Philippine Affairs (Copa), principally Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, had supposedly secured commitments from officers in both the Northern and Southern Luzon Commands that the commands would defect to the opposition when the time was right.

Their withdrawal was factored into Espinosa group's plan, said the sources.

Espinosa, according to his men, had also talked with AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Jaime delos Santos, who also pledged his support. (Espinosa and Delos Santos are two of the candidates for the hotly contested post of AFP chief, which will be vacated by Gen. Angelo Reyes on March 17.)

Espinosa's group said it also discovered that the Estrada government was planning to move a contingent of Marines from Cotabato City, possibly to quell an uprising. Espinosa's men said they made contact with these Marines who, upon arrival in Manila, would have sided with them.

'Burned'

Yap and other officers interviewed by the INQUIRER said that their planned mutiny was "burned" as early as December last year.

Col. James Dimal, chief of staff of the Air Defense Command, made contact with officers of the 5th Strike Wing but his attempt was reported directly to Air Force Chief Lt. Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr., brother of Estrada ally Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Dimal was supposed to be one of the pilots of the F-5's. Instead, he was immediately sacked, and is up to now on floating status.

With the cover of Dimal's operation blown, government agents learned that a plot was afoot, the officers said.

While the Espinosa group was networking with both the opposition and selected military units starting November, agents of the Intelligence Service of the AFP (Isafp) were already hot on their trail, they said.

The planners had to take diversionary moves, like meeting in hotels and restaurants for drinks then clandestinely being picked up by vehicles for their "real" rendezvous.

3 sacks of cats

The plan to get the fighter jets, however, was not abandoned. But the planners had another problem: where to land the jets, since they did not want to return to Clark. Near Clark is Camp O'Donnell, the main base of the Army's Light Armor Brigade.

"Tanks could have been ordered to ram through the airbase," the officer said.

The solution was to land the jets at the Subic Free Port where there is an airport. According to the plan, the group would use the hangar of FedEx, the international courier service.

They contacted Richard Gordon, now secretary of tourism, who agreed to provide not only starting sets (ground equipment to start the jet turbines) and fuel, but a diversion to distract guards of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

While the jets would be in mid-air, demonstrators would converge at the gates of the SBMA, and if need be, break them down and surround the FedEx hangar, people-power style.

The planners even considered the possibility that the SBMA would unleash the fearsome K-9's or attacks dogs against the crowd.

Their solution was novel. "There were three sacks of cats at hand. If the dogs were released, the people would release the cats and hope that the dogs would come after them," one officer confided, drawing laughter from his fellow planners.

Ready

According to Yap, as D-Day approached, the group was able to move the four MG-520's from Sangley to Villamor Air Base in Pasay, the main headquarters of the Philippine Air Force.

If the Jan. 20 scenario had come true, the choppers would have landed at the nearby Corinthian Gardens.

Yap, for his part, would have broadcast a radio message from the air, declaring the Air Force's withdrawal of support for Estrada.

A military tactical command post with 10 previously installed telephone lines would have been set up inside the Edsa Shrine Chapel. Here, the group would have supposedly received messages of defection from other military field units.

The officers "pre-positioned" a group of Marines and Army Scout Rangers at the Ultra compound in nearby Pasig.

The soldiers were led by Marine Col. Cesar dela Peña, one of the rebel military leaders who assaulted Camp Aguinaldo in the bloody 1989 coup attempt against then President Corazon Aquino. (Dela Peña surrendered to another Marine, Col. Marcelino Yacat, now intelligence officer of Espinosa.)

When it comes to planning coups, the Espinosa group is certainly not wanting in experience.

One of the general's trusted officers at the AFP Joint Command and Staff College (JCSC) is Army Col. Ernie Amboy, a veteran of the failed 1987 coup against the Aquino administration.

The AFP's JCSC itself is a locus of military strategy, the school where senior officers from all the services are trained for higher command duties.

A number of the 34 students then taking up courses were also employed to "network" with their respective units in the field.

Edsa I, II: Lessons and differences

(From page A1)

Edsa I happened when our people were still under martial rule and our goal was to regain our freedom and democracy. In the case of Edsa II, we were no longer under martial rule. We were already enjoying our basic liberties. We were simply fed up with gross incompetence, shameless immorality, and unmitigated corruption. All we wanted to have was a good, honest and efficient government.

Another distinction readily stands out. Ferdinand Marcos, the man we toppled through Edsa I, was shrewd and ruthless. Joseph Estrada, the man we toppled through Edsa II, was not shrewd at all. Both indeed amassed great wealth during their term of office but their similarity ends there.

In the case of Marcos, it took the democratic opposition 14 years (from 1972 to 1986) to remove him. In the case of Estrada, who was less cunning, it took People Power only two and a half years to oust him.

Another difference is that Marcos was removed from office with the help of the United States which forthwith whisked him out to Hawaii and kept him there until his death. Estrada, on the other hand, is still very much in the Philippines, claiming to be only "on leave."

But what is perhaps the more significant distinction is that Edsa I was initiated by a group of rebel soldiers who were later helped by People Power. In the case of Edsa II, the bloodless revolt was initiated by People Power that was later helped by the military.

Legal distinction

Another distinction is a legal one. Edsa I brought about the establishment of a revolutionary government that abrogated the Marcos Constitution and replaced it with a provisional "Freedom Constitution." The new Constitution was established the following year.

In the case of Edsa II, President Macapagal-Arroyo's assumption into office did not bring about a new government or a new Constitution. We still have the same government, the same Congress, the same judicial system and the same set of local officials.

Untenable is the attempt of one of Estrada's lawyer to establish a parallelism between what happened during World War II (when we had one President in exile and another President of the 2nd Philippine Republic) and the present case of a de facto President and a President "on leave."

No parallelism

During that critical period during the war, my father had to provide the necessary leadership if only to cushion the impact of enemy occupation and tide our people to better times.

There is no parallelism at all between Estrada and Quezon because in the case of Quezon, he was forced to leave the country because of invasion by a foreign power.

In the case of Estrada, he was expelled by his own people.

AFP as potent force

There are some lessons that we should learn from Edsa I and Edsa II.

As a consequence of Edsa II, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has suddenly became a potent political force. It now holds the key to the stability of our political institutions.

Note that there are extant constitutional justifications.

Under Art. 11, Sec. 3 of the 1987 Constitution, "civilian authority is" supposed to be "supreme over the military."

But the succeeding sentence also declares that "the Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people."

By simply withdrawing support from the Commander in Chief, the Armed Forces can bring about a change of administration.

The "protector of the people" clause, therefore, may have unwittingly neutralized, if not nullified the fundamental concept of "civilian supremacy over the military" as well as the basic principle that ours is "a republican state," that "sovereignty resides in the people" and that "all government authority emanates from them." (Art. II, Sec. 1, 1987 Constitution.)

While the present leadership of the AFP is undoubtedly composed of highly professional and apolitical men who are loyal to the Constitution, the "protector of the people" clause in the present Constitution may now invite adventurism. The entire Constitution should therefore be re-examined and revised as soon as practicable by a duly elected constitutional convention.

Reminder

Edsa I and Edsa II should serve as a constant reminder to all presidents, present and future, to remain true and faithful to their oath of office. They should never use their position to enrich themselves and their relatives or oppress our people. They should exercise leadership that is at once selfless, clean, competent, courageous and God-fearing.

All presidents should be reminded that the Filipino people have the "superior right to alter and abolish" their government when it becomes "destructive" of the purposes for which it was instituted.

This residual power is above the Constitution and can always be exercised as a last recourse to achieve the people's happiness and well being.

RP receives award for bloodless revolt

(From page A1)

The Philippines will be the first country to receive such a recognition for the promotion of change through peaceful means, as exemplified by People Power I and II, the two popular revolts that toppled the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and Joseph Estrada on Jan. 20.

At a testimonial lunch hosted yesterday by the Edsa People Power Commission (EPPC) at the Club Filipino in San Juan, Nobel Foundation chair Pierre Marchand said the Filipinos' exercise of direct democracy was a living example to the world that change could be effected without shedding blood.

"The world is sick and tired of war and violence," Marchand said, adding: "You have given a gift to a world that knows only force and violence—of effecting radical change without firing a shot, without creating new enemies, nay, by making friends of old enemies, showing them the respect that triggered a national shift, a paradigm change that could not be denied.

"You were able to prove that a human being is above all systems and laws."

The Nobel Foundation is composed of peace advocates such as the late Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Nelson Mandela of South Africa, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo and Jose Ramos-Horta of East Timor, Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union, Henry Kissinger of the United States and Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina.

The award will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo in a ceremony at the Edsa Shrine.

The ceremony will be among the highlights of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, which the United Nations declared starting this year.

Legacy, inspiration

In a statement to be read today, Ramos-Horta paid tribute to the Filipino people for doing a repeat of the "great revolutionary legacy" it gave the world through People Power I.

"Your People Power II is even more amazing as it was almost a spontaneous combustion of a nation's wrath when it felt that truth and justice were being suppressed," said the East Timorese leader. He added: "History rarely allows a people to recreate an already singular phenomenon, but again you God-fearing and fellow Asians have shown the world that the governed must be eternally vigilant in holding elected leaders accountable.

"Indeed, you have shown with your fervor in your latest democratic triumph that public office is a public trust."

Ramos-Horta thanked the Filipino people for serving as the "inspiration" of the East Timorese people for their own peaceful democratic revolution.

The Christian-dominated East Timor officially ceded from Indonesia in 1999 following a UN-sponsored referendum.

Ramos-Horta said the Philippines and East Timor shared a history of being colonized by Spain and Portugal, the same religion, and, "more importantly, the same history of continuous struggle for self determination."

"In 1986, your revolution gave the East Timorese people—those in the jungle as well as those in the diaspora—the inspiration to continue our difficult quest for freedom.

"Now you enhanced your great revolutionary legacy last Jan. 16-20 when the Filipino people again surprised the world with a reprise of your 1986 uprising," he said.

Without Bayan

The testimonial lunch gathered participants of the 1986 revolt, including Ramon Pedrosa and Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino of the August Twenty-One Movement (Atom); Christopher Carreon and Ramon del Rosario Jr., EPPC executive director and chair, respectively; businessman Jose Concepcion; and members of religious groups.

The newly appointed commissioners of the EPPC, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño and "running priest" Robert Reyes, were not present.

Casiño is among the convenors of People Power III, a new movement for justice and peace launched last week to remind Ms Macapagal of her "unfulfilled promises" to the masses that catapulted her to power.

But those present at the Club Filipino, some of whom flew in from abroad, were cheerful.

"The world awaits you," Marchand told his audience. "The world awaits your experience."

He hailed another peace initiative by a Filipino—the Global Forum on Civil Society proposed by the late Senate President Marcelo Fernan.

Marchand announced that Fernan's proposal was approved at the last session of the UN in New York.

He said the Global Forum, to be guided by Philippine civil society, "the only NGO (nongovernment organization) in the world with the actual experience of changing violent situations non-violently," would soon start its task of serving as a counterpart of governments and states and as the conscience of the world.

Marchand said the world could not embark on its mission of promoting peace without the spirit of Edsa.

"You, dear Filipino people, cannot stay within the shells of your existence. You cannot lie content upon your laurels that you have so richly won," he said.

"You were given a national gift. Do not keep it to yourselves," he added.

He also said "the world will never be the same again . . . if the spirit of Edsa prevails beyond the shores of this tiny archipelago."

For the people

Lou-Ann Guanson, vice president of the Center for Global Non-Violence, said that while the award would be received by Ms Macapagal, it was intended to honor the Filipino people, whose courage and love for peace ensured the triumph of the two uprisings.

"I don't know if they're going to keep it in Malacañang. They can keep it wherever, but that is for the Filipino people," Guanson said. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

NOBEL Peace Laureates Foundation president, Pierre Marchand, a special guest at the Edsa's 15th anniversary rites today, singles out the Philippines to launch the UN Decade for Peace and Non-Violence for Children of the World. He exchanges views with Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and Manuel Rangasa of the EarthSavers Movement National Youth coordinator.

Inspiring, inimitable, inseparable

(From page A1)

of people power, which twice enabled a change in government without bloodshed.

She stressed that last month's popular coup was a result of the Filipinos' political ascendancy "borne from the gains of the first People Power revolution in 1986."

Edsa I "is lauded among the community of nations for setting the trend in the popularization of peaceful but militant democratic movements across the globe," Ms Macapagal said.

"This momentous event is a source of inspiration to peoples of the world in their clamor for a just and humane society," she said.

But Ms Macapagal said that the fight was not over and that the people would still have to "preserve" the gains of Edsa I and II.

The leader, whose month-old presidency is still being questioned by her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, in the Supreme Court, said she had the "formidable task of leading 75 million Filipinos and realizing our aspirations of growth and progress for the greatest number of people."

"Although we have successfully resolved our country's political crisis, we still face daunting challenges ahead of us," she said.

In praise of soldiers

At the Libingan ng mga Bayani, the President recalled the sacrifices made by unsung heroes throughout Philippine history, including those who fought to win the country's freedom in 1986, and those who succeeded in replacing an ineffective president last month.

"We recognize the role of the unknown soldier in the peaceful transition of power from a dictatorship to the heroine of democracy, President (Corazon) Aquino," she said.

Ms Macapagal said that Filipinos who came to Edsa on Jan. 19 and 20, and who gathered in other protests across the country, continued the legacy of Filipino revolutionaries who fought Spain more than a hundred years ago.

The President, who relied on crucial military support to ascend to power, paid tribute to Filipino soldiers who fought in World War II, to soldiers who fought in the battles of insurgency and secessionist movements, and to Filipinos who shielded soldiers who turned against Marcos in 1986.

She portrayed their actions as "charting our own destiny."

The President also called on Filipinos to be "heroes" in their "own little anonymous way."

"Not all are called upon to shed blood or demonstrate feats of courage. But the time has called for all of us to become modern, everyday, even anonymous heroes like our unknown soldier," she said.

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Mutombo helps 76ers beat Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan—Allen Iverson had 43 points and 10 rebounds and Dikembe Mutombo had 17 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots in his debut with Philadelphia as the 76ers beat the Detroit Pistons, 99-78.

Detroit's Jerry Stackhouse scored 22 points. Chucky Atkins added 12 points and Dana Barros finished with 10.

Mutombo, traded along with Roshown McLeod from Atlanta to Philadelphia on Thursday for Theo Ratliff, Nazr Mohammed and Pepe Sanchez, ignited Philadelphia's fastbreak with 10 defensive rebounds. He shot 7-for-12 from the field and 3-for-4 from the line.

Friday night's game also marked the debut of Detroit's Corliss Williamson, who scored six points and grabbed four rebounds.

Williamson was traded by Toronto along with Kornell David, Tyrone Corbin and a conditional first-round pick to Detroit for Jerome Williams and Eric Montross.

Pacers 92, Cavaliers 90

In Cleveland, Austin Croshere made two free throws with 1.9 seconds left and Reggie Miller scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter as Indiana won its third straight.

Travis Best, Jermaine O'Neal and Jalen Rose each added 15 points for the Pacers, who snapped a three-game road losing streak.

Jim Jackson scored 23 points for Cleveland, which lost for the 12th time in 13 games.

Clarence Weatherspoon had 16 points and nine rebounds and Andre Miller had 11 assists for Cleveland, which has dropped 25 of 31 overall.

Kings 119, Raptors 118, 3OT

In Toronto, Predrag Stojakovic scored a career-high 39 points and hit a 3-pointer with 45 seconds left in triple overtime as Sacramento won its third straight.

Doug Christie, playing in Toronto for the first time since the Raptors traded him to Sacramento before the season, added 20 points and seven rebounds.

Toronto's Vince Carter had 38 points and 10 assists in 63 minutes. Antonio Davis had 20 points, six in the final overtime, and added 12 rebounds and six blocks.

Suns 88, Knicks 84, OT

In New York, Shawn Marion scored four of his 19 points in overtime and blocked Charlie Ward's final shot as Phoenix won its third in a row on the last stop of a four-game road trip.

It was the first loss of the season for the Knicks in six overtime games.

Jason Kidd had 16 points, nine rebounds and seven assists for the Suns. Jake Tsakalidis added 14, Cliff Robinson had 13 and Rodney Rogers 10.

Latrell Sprewell scored 26 points and Marcus Camby had a career-high 23 rebounds. Allan Houston added 21 points for the Knicks, who had their three-game home winning streak snapped.

Jazz 96, SuperSonics 84

In Seattle, Karl Malone scored 23 of his 33 points in the second half and Utah won its fifth game in a row and seventh straight on the road.

The Jazz improved their record to 37-16, best in the West, and went 3-0 against the Sonics, winning twice in Seattle. They've won 10 of their last 11 starts.

The Sonics lost for the third time in four games since the All-Star break. Gary Payton led Seattle with 19 points.

Donyell Marshall had 20 points and John Starks 12 for Utah, while Ruben Patterson scored 17 and Rashard Lewis 16 for Seattle.

Lakers 113, Hawks 106

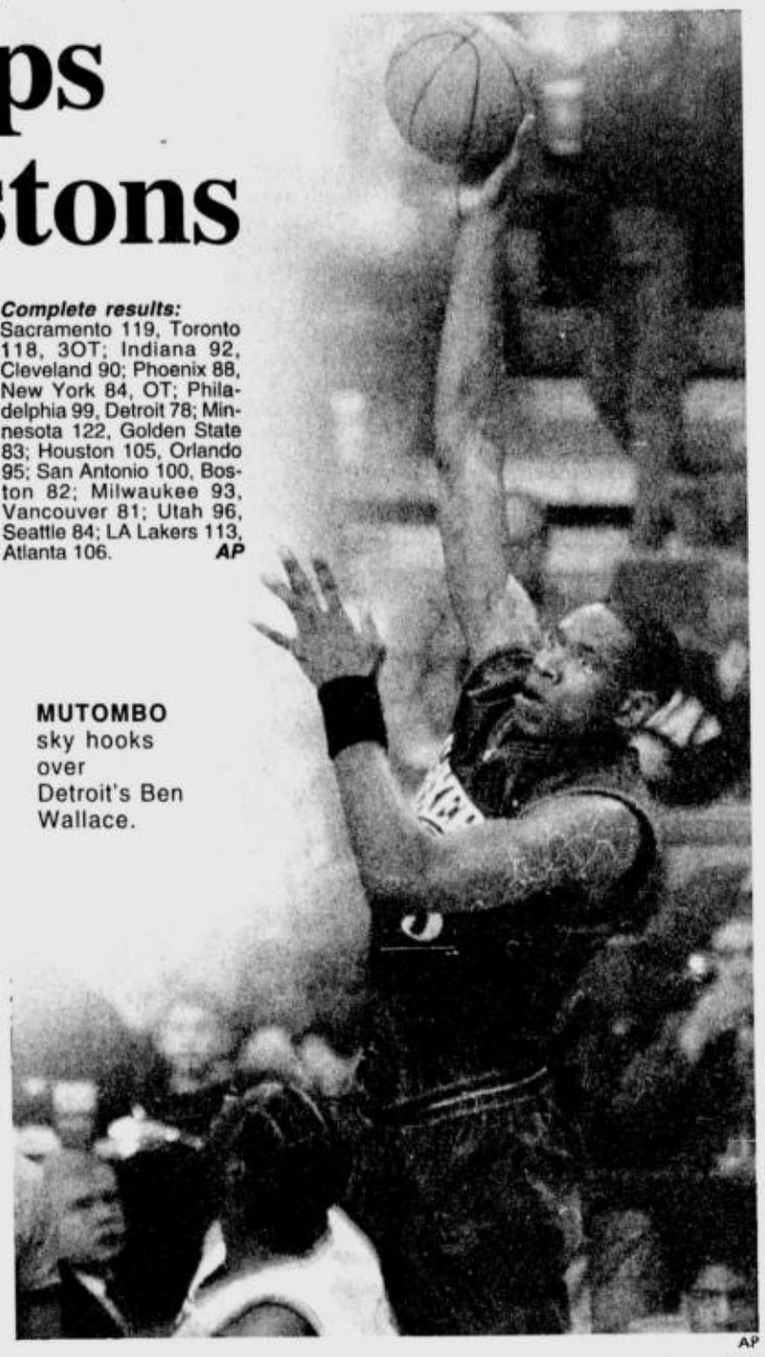
In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal scored 30 points and Brian Shaw, starting in place of the injured Kobe Bryant, added 22 as Los Angeles won its third straight.

Chris Crawford scored 27 points on 10-of-14 shooting for Atlanta. Jason Terry had 25 points, and Lorenzen Wright added 18.

It was the Hawks' first game since they traded center Dikembe Mutombo to Philadelphia. Atlanta also gave up forward Roshown McLeod in the deal Thursday for Theo Ratliff, Toni Kukoc, Nazr Mohammed and Pepe Sanchez.

Bryant sat out his second consecutive game because of a sprained right ankle. *AP*

Complete results: Sacramento 119, Toronto 118, 3OT; Indiana 92, Cleveland 90; Phoenix 88, New York 84, OT; Philadelphia 99, Detroit 78; Minnesota 122, Golden State 83; Houston 105, Orlando 95; San Antonio 100, Boston 82; Milwaukee 93, Vancouver 81; Utah 96, Seattle 84; LA Lakers 113, Atlanta 106. *AP*



AP

MUTOMBO sky hooks over Detroit's Ben Wallace.

Pals stun Beermen

Pop tackles Alaska today

PBA STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel	4	1
Shell	4	2
Red Bull	3	2
Pop Cola	3	2
Purefoods	3	2
Ginebra	3	2
Tanduay	2	4
Mobiline	2	3
Sta. Lucia	1	4
Alaska	1	4

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:15 p.m. – Purefoods vs Ginebra
6:30 p.m. – Alaska vs Pop Cola

BY MARC ANTHONY REYES

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Mobiline besmirched San Miguel Beer's erstwhile immaculate record last night, posting an 83-71 victory to keep its quarterfinal chances going in the PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Bren Guiao Convention Center here.

The victory enabled the Phone Pals to break a two-game skid and jump back in contention with a 2-3 record, while bringing down the Beermen to their first defeat in five outings.

Vic Pablo had 18 of his game-high 24 points in the second half where the Phone Pals built double-digit leads, the biggest at 64-47 at the start of the fourth quarter.

Danny Seigle had 19 points, 13 in the first quarter, but wavered in the long run, making just one of his 15 attempts in the fourth quarter as the Beermen yielded to the surprisingly tough Phone Pals.

Mobiline, which has been inconsistent at the start of the conference, shot 53 percent from the floor, something San Miguel couldn't control as the Beermen sputtered in offense with a 31-percent cliip.

Meanwhile, Pop Cola's Johnny Abarrientos, Jojo Lastimosa and Poch Juinio get to play against their former team when the Panthers take on Alaska Milk at the Araneta Coliseum.

Shifted unceremoniously to Pop Cola last year—in the case of Lastimosa, two years ago—they get to pour whatever sentiments they have inside them in the 6:30 p.m. game.

"They really look forward to Sunday (today) and I even have to pull them back from getting too emotional about it," said Pop Cola coach Chot Reyes of his three wards.

Of the three, it was Abarrientos who is very vocal about his feelings about the trade that transformed the '90s' most dominant team to a rambling squad made up of young, inexperienced players like Jon Ordonio and Ali Peek.

But while Reyes said emotions could help them against the Aces, he is wary that they might lose their focus into the game and waste a chance to vault among the league-leaders.

Purefoods and Barangay Ginebra clash in the first game at 5:15 p.m.

MOBILINE 83—Pablo 24, Codiñera 16, Camaso 14, Ejercito 13, Cui 8, Demape 5, Ravena 3, Fran 0, Gonzales 0, Babilonia 0.

SAN MIGUEL 71—Ildefonso 19, Seigle 19, Belasco 13, Racela 11, Victoria 3, Abuda 2, Gamboa 2, Duat 2.

Quarterscores: 18-18; 36-31; 57-47; 83-71.

Welcoat acquires Encarnacion

BY DENNIS U. EROA

THIS EARLY, Welcoat Paints is girding for another war with newly crowned champion Shark Energy Drink.

After relinquishing the recent PBL Challenge Cup championship to the Power Boosters, the Paintmasters are hungrily setting their sights on the next conference tentatively scheduled on March 24 at the Makati Coliseum.

For a start, coach Junel Baculi has lured the exciting Brixter Encarnacion from the pros to reinforce Welcoat and fill in the void vacated by now Red Bull guard Anton Villoria.

"Brixter will play for us in the coming conference," said Baculi, who saw his bid for a fourth straight title snapped by Shark, 4-3, in the best-of-seven Challenge Cup titular series recently.

Despite an impressive amateur record while playing for San Sebastian College and Chowking, the 6-foot-4 Encarnacion failed to live up to his promise as he wasn't given up the chance to show his skills.

Encarnacion played for two seasons (1998-99) with Pop Cola averaging 5.5 points in 60 games.

Welcoat also picked FEU's Michael Tolentino, Isagani Malindog, Marlon Tadeo and Rey Tuble.

Baculi said the team has already recovered from it surprising setback to Shark. "The loss was an eye-opener to all of us. The players, including myself have become *señoritos* after winning three straight titles," Baculi noted.

Owner of two ABC Champions Club titles, Baculi said there is a need to change the "mental outlook" of the whole team."In a way, the loss is also a blessing in disguise. Now, we're hungrier than ever. We have to redefine our mental preparation."

Welcoat will resume its practice on Monday at the Magallanes Gym. "We're starting early because we want to be ready come the next conference. Hopefully, we'll finish on top this time around."

Lakers end campus tour

THE LAGUNA Lakers, taking advantage of the long break in the MBA, embarked on a campus tour to shed excess poundage and familiarize collegiate teams with their brand of play recently.

Laguna coach Bonnie Garcia said the Lakers played and won against the Mapua Cardinals, the FEU Tamaraws and the Lyceum Pirates.

"The boys were out of shape, but they were raring to play," said Garcia, taking note of the Lakers' average winning margin of more than 25 points.

Team owner Bert Lina revealed that arrangements are being made for the FedEx-backed Lakers to meet other strong teams from the NCAA and the UAAP.

Garcia said the exhibition tour also give him the opportunity to determine the capability of Laguna's incoming players.

Fil-Ams Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers remain to be the Lakers' main men with Biboy Simon and Chris Nicdao providing support. Other holdovers are Genesis Sasuman, Mike Garcia, Ryan Bernardo and Jherome Barbosa.

Returning to the Lakers fold are Richard Melencio, Tek Regidor and Valentin Domingo.

Acquired to bolster the Lakers' campaign in the MBA's fourth season starting on June 3 were Junel Mendiola, Jomar Tierra and Randy Lopez.

Fil-Am Dorian Peña, another prized recruit, is still recovering from a shin injury. *Roy Luarca*

'War General' reaches the US

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THE War General incident is turning exactly one month old tomorrow and the *bayang kareristas* are still awaiting explanations from the Philracom and the PRCI.

As we've said earlier, that sad thing which happened at the Santa Ana Park has become the favorite topic among racing fans in both local racetracks.

Now, even our *kababayans* from abroad, particularly those in the US West Coast, have got wind of the incident.

One of them, Toti Ramin, e-mailed us to express his sentiments, including he and his fellow *kareristas*' fear of coming over here and encountering an incident *ala*-War General.

And for the benefit of local kareristas, Toti likewise added the latest news on Ramon Guce, brother of LB and AB Guce, who has decided to seek greener pastures in the US.

Here's Toti's mail:

Dear Edwin,

I just want to let you know that the War General incident is a topic among the "bayang karerista" here in southern California.

This is particularly at the Santa Anita Park in Arcadia and in Los Alamitos Racing Club in Cypress.

It is in these places where you will distinctively hear the popular phrases "Palo pa!", "Tulak pa!", "Hataw pa!", or the words "patok," "silat" and "biyahe."

Ayon sa mga kababayan natin dito, sana huwag nang mauulit yung kasong War General so we can look forward to visiting the Manila Jockey Club (San Lazaro) and Philippine Racing Club (Santa Ana) without fear the fear of being *"matatalo nang walang laban."*

Maraming salamat, mabuhay and more power to you and the PDI.

TOTI RAMIN
Tustin, California

Pahabol: Our *kababayan*, jockey Ramon B. Guce, is doing an excellent job here.

He's ranked fourth in both the thoroughbred and Arabian horses at the Los Alamitos Racing Club.

Lately, he tried riding quarter horses(distance b/n 200 to 550 yards) *pero wala pang suerte*. Good luck to him!

***

One Winner can also be reached at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or sports@inquirer.com.ph.

Cebu bike race slated

TOP mountainbikers face a challenging trek in the 3rd Osaka Iridology Xtreme Mountain Bike Challenge slated April 22 in Bgy. Mangyan, Sibonga, Cebu.

Osaka Sports CEO Jonathan L. Guardo said the event offers bigger prizes aside from the traditional free jerseys and buffet lunch for all participants.

Guardo Sports has sponsored different sports events such as basketball, golf, triathlon and beach volleyball.

But the Osaka Iridology Xtreme Mountain Bike Challenge, held to honor the natal celebration of Osaka patriarch Col. Jose Guardo Sr., has taken the biggest response as it has attracted an average of 300 mountainbikers from all over the country during the past two races.

"Mountainbiking is fast becoming a popular sport and we're expecting a bigger field this year. And due to popular clamor, we're planning to make this event an annual affair," said Guardo.

Interested Metro Manila participants may inquire at the Osaka Iridology head office, c/o Robe at tel. nos. 634-8279 and 634-8259.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Manila Millennium 2. Speed Master 3. Diva

Race 2—1. Musika 2. Hacker 3. Space Cadette 4. Allusion

Race 3—1. Stock Rising 2. Typhoon Belle 3. Burning Light 4. Silver Lining

Race 4—1. Decathlete 2. Winning Post 3. Tayp Ko Yan 4. Maharani 5. Glorious Riches

Race 5—1. Quest for Gold 2. Nevada Dancer 3. Two Thumbs Up 4. Rock's Dragon 5. Cherish Emblem

Race 6—1. El Condor 2. Freshman 3. Bulwak 4. Jazz Queen 5. Charisma

Race 7—1. Party Princess 2. Ayra's Pet 3. Bemedalled Ruler 4. Lovely Luigi 5. Run for Cash

Race 8—1. Shower of Stars 2. Gimme A Ring 3. My Indy 4. Dynamite Miss 5. Be Quiet

Race 9—1. Golden Eagle 2. The Fox 3. Bullhorn 4. Good Grace 5. Sweet Lover

Race 10—1. High Roller 2. Bound to Be 3. Power Drive

Race 11—1. Daseldurf 2. The Magician 3. Sir Piker 4. Celebratino 5. My Cute Nicki

Race 12—1. Water Polo 2. Extraordinaire 3. Ring Leader 4. Pep Talk 5. Free Again

Race 13—1. Race for Gold 2. King Edward 3. Lady Darinda 4. Strong Bird

Race 14—1. Al's Princess 2. Passionately 3. Beatitudes 4. Prince of Africa 5. Noble Spirit

Karting on March 4

ONE of the most-awaited motorsports events this year—the Shell Super Karting Series 2001—finally reels off on March 4 at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

More than 80 karters from different parts of the country are expected to participate in this nine-part series organized by the Carmona Circuit Philippines in cooperation with Shell, Nokia Phils., Match Box/Hot Wheels, Bridgestone, Eastway Racing Company and Coca Cola.

Defending champion Philip Alvendia of Kart 1 Racing, Pepon Marave of Demvel's Racing Team and Mike Tuason of Tuason Racing Project head the elite list of karters vying in the centerpiece Formula Super A category.

Joining them are Jess Garcia, Manuel Mayo and Mon Tanjuatco.

Alvendia, who was also honored as "Karter of the Year" by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) during its annual awards night at the Holiday Inn last Jan. 18, will also spearhead Kart 1 in the equally exciting team competition against Demvel's, Tuason Racing Project and Tony Kart.

The other featured karters are Marzo Samson, Christian Sotto, Mario Cunanan, Bingo Valero and actor-sportsman Dominic Ochoa in the ICA class; Lee Bumgarner, Bert Neuhof and Juha Roiha in the newly introduced Formula 125; and Tyson Sy, Lorenzo Rijk, Mark Bumgarner and Maxine Ignacio in the cadet 85cc and 60cc categories.

"We expect more participants now than the previous years mainly due to the rise in popularity of karting in the country," said CCP project manager Rose Feria.

SPORTSWATCH

Rotary golfest at Sherwood

THE ROTARY Club of Bagumbayan-Manila District 3810 will host the Mega Discon 2001 golf tournament on March 7 at the Sherwood Golf and Country Club in Trece Martirez, Cavite. This tournament coincides with the Taylor Made Adidas-Governors Cup 8th leg in honor of District Governor Richard "Charoy" Marquez of District 3810. District golf chair Albert Que said the tournament will have two Mercedes Benz Smart cars for a hole-in-one on holes No. 2 and No. 11, one Sym motor bike on hole No. 16 and one trip for two to Bangkok with hotel accomodation in hole No. 6 courtesy of the district governor. Guest celebrities from the music industry and stage actors as well as Rotarians from other districts will participate. Tee off time starts at 7 a.m. Tournament fee is P1,800, including meal, raffles and 2 Mulligans. Sponsor for this leg is Taylor Made Adidas. Other backers are Birchtree, Ford-Makati, SYM Mitsukoshi, Primal Enterprises, Boysen Paint, UCPB, SmithKline Beecham.

Scuba diving tilts scheduled

THE LEISURE sport of scuba diving becomes a competitive event on March 3 as Verde Island Resort launches its year-round teams scuba diving tournament. Located between the Batangas mainland and Mindoro Island in Batangas Bay, the island-resort introduced the event late last year, featuring a one-dive competition where members of the teams are tasked to look and identify the different fish abounding the island's 14 dive sites. "This is a very god eco-tourism sports event where the competitors simply enjoy the beautiful sights underneath the sea and the fun is being the first to identify the different fish to be located in each dive," said tournament director Rolly Baron. Prizes at stake are overnight accommodations at the Verde Island Resort. Interested parties may call Rolly Baron at 0917-539-4561 or easycall 141-220616.

Age-group meet set March 2-4

THE NEGROS Occidental Tennis Association (Nota) in Bacolod City will host the third Alibor Age-Group Tennis Championships from March 2-4. Registration is ongoing at the Philta office (tel. 525-64-34) and at the Nota headed by Vic Bugaay. Deadline dates are March 1 at 5 p.m. (singles) and March 2 at 12 noon (doubles). Alibor president Mike Sablot has agreed to sponsor the netfest which has attracted top juniors Charise Godoy of Tangub City, Berry Sepulveda of Cebu, Juan Felipe Mayor of Kalibo, Aklan and Guba siblings Johan and Yannick.

AGUIRRE CUP

Jose Donoso (third from right, left photo) holds "Bianca," named the best polo pony, as Bobby Aguirre and Inigo Zobel look on during the awarding rites of the recent Tomas Aguirre Cup at the Manila Polo Club. Los Tamaraws, bannered by Aguirre and Donoso, ruled the event after beating the Zobel-led Calatagan, 12-6. Aguirre, who scored four goals, is shown with businessman-sportsman Myther Bunag in right photo.

St. Francis prevails anew

SAN PABLO City, Laguna—St. Francis of Assisi dumped Jose Rizal University, 85-79 to become the first back-to-back champion of the National Students Championships here Friday night. The Doves leaned on MVP Yancy de Ocampo who scored a game-high 27 points.

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Hingis enters Dubai final

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates—Martina Hingis of Switzerland faced tense moments in the first set but recovered in style to beat Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 7-6 (6), 6-1 in the semifinals of the $565,000 Dubai Open tournament Friday. *AP*

9TH IN 15 YEARS

Luisita wins PAL Sr Golf crown

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

CEBU CITY—Dynastic Luisita captured its ninth win in 15 years yesterday, grabbing the 15th PAL Seniors Interclub Golf Championship with just enough effort at the Cebu Country Club here.

Only a minor scare threatened Luisita's grip of the crown as surprising Riviera almost deadlocked the count at the turn in a mini rally from eight points down.

But Riviera's catch-up job fizzled just as fast as top gunner Danny Pizarro's putter suddenly turned cold coming home in the tournament that gives 4 points to a birde, 3 to a par, 2 to a bogey and 1 to a double-bogey.

"Imagine, Danny suddenly kept missing two-footers on our way home," said Lucio Yan of Luisita. "He even missed a one-footer for birdie. I couldn't believe it."

Yan, the former national seniors champion, shot 49 yesterday in a strong backup to Richie Garcia's team-high 50. Luisita's other scorers were Alex Montelibano and Alfonso Marcelo with 48s and Alan Gaston with 47.

The scores of King Sumulong (47), Tony Garcia (42) and Cesar Munoz (40) did not count in the eight-to-play, five-to-count format as Luisita's 242 yesterday gave the defending champion a winning total of 482.

That was 10 shots up on Riviera and a big 30 points ahead of third-placer Cebu Country Club even as UP Tee Jots won the Founders Division over Alabang. Leyte (Pete Cantillas 39, Lau Rogero 37, John Uy 36, Jewel Buot and Jose Vercede 35s) retained its Friendship title.

"We were in the fight really, but then, Luisita is really a tough team to beat," said Pizarro, Riviera's team captain. "The chase was spirited until we stumbled on those putts that refused to fall."

Riviera's gallant stand saw Luisita inch ahead by only two points in yesterday's final round as Riviera countered with a 242 for a 472 total.

Riviera shot 232 Friday at Club Filipino de Cebu, where Ben Liclican caused a two-point team penalty for holing out beyond a double-bogey.

Liclican played with vengeance yesterday, firing 52. Rico Javier had 49, Norton Gonzalez 47, and Jun Chuidian and Pizarro 46 apiece.

Cebu's scorers were Anthony Jackson with 52, Edgar Chiongbian with 48, Rene Sarmiento and Sammy Darza with 46s and Noboru Takahashi with 45.

Manila Golf Club dropped from third to fifth behind fourth-placer Villamor as only Alex Prieto (49) and Earl McCarthy (48) submitted fighting scores for Manila GC. Gary Braeger had 44, Bolo Tuason 43 and Peping Tanjangco 40.

Cebu had 237=252 and Villamor 234=450 for third and fourth spots, respectively. Manila GC totalled 220-224=444.

Villamor's top guns yesterday were Teddy Yabes with 51, Pompeyo Vasquez 48, Fil Artajo 48, Toto Bautista 45 and Roger dela Cruz 42.

Alabang's rally in the Founders battle fell short by 6 points after a 225 for 432 in the tournament for golfers 55 years old and above.

The regular men's event will be held Feb. 27 to March 2.

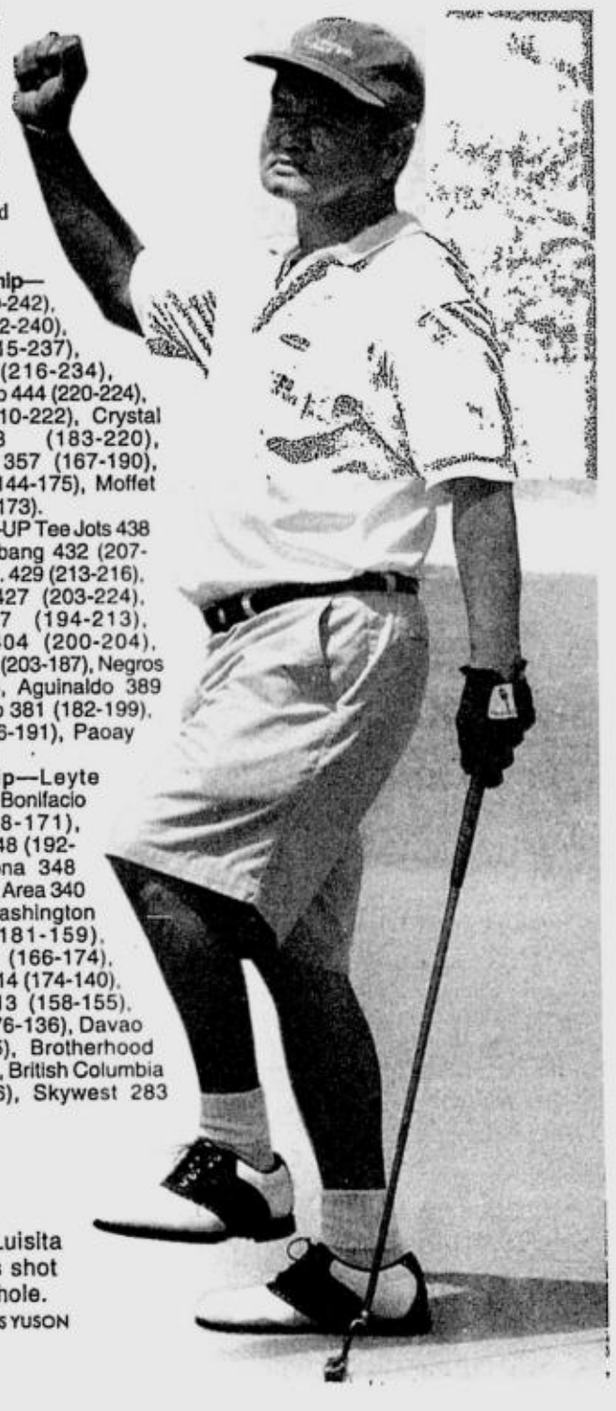
Among the major tournament sponsors are ABS-CBN, Airbus Industrie, GE Aircraft Engines, Mareco, NBC, TTG Asia, Asia Brewery, Boeing, Fortune Tobacco, DHL, U-Bix and Pilipinas Shell.

Standings:

Championship—Luisita 482 (240-242), Riviera 472 (232-240), Cebu 452 (215-237), Villamor 450(216-234), Manila Golf Club 444 (220-224), Valley 432 (210-222), Crystal Spring 403 (183-220), Mt.Malindang 357 (167-190), Alliance 319 (144-175), Moffet Field 299 (126-173).

Founders—UP Tee Jots 438 (225-213), Alabang 432 (207-225), Team L.A. 429 (213-216), Southwoods 427 (203-224), Heritage 407 (194-213), Intramuros 404 (200-204), Canlubang 390 (203-187), Negros 396 (188-208), Aguinaldo 389 (176-213), Apo 381 (182-199), Navy 347 (156-191), Paoay 340 (156-184).

Friendship—Leyte 388 (206-182), Bonifacio 359 (188-171), Evangelista 348 (192-156), Pamplona 348 (181-167), Bay Area 340 (183-157), Washington DC 340 (181-159), Golfinos 340 (166-174), San Juanico 314 (174-140), Vancouver 313 (158-155), Guam 312 (176-136), Davao 310 (165-145), Brotherhood 298 (159-139), British Columbia 290 (144-146), Skywest 283 (147-136).



ALFONSO Marcelo of Luisita reacts to his shot in the ninth hole. JESS YUSON

Bombi's lament

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

CONDOLENCE. I condole with the relatives of Roger Arao and Boy Veloso. Roger, my amiable *compadre* from Cagayan de Oro City, and Boy, one of Cebu's most respected journalists, died recently. May their souls rest in peace.

■

CEBU CITY—Senior golfers always fascinate me.

Their fighting spirit is awesome.

Their attitude to life is contagious.

Their "quarrel" with Father Time has no ending.

Iloilo's Natalio Viray, the father of opera singer Gamaliel, has not stopped joining the PAL Interclub Golf Championship. At 87 going on 88, he is the tournament's oldest warrior. Not too long ago, after Natalio and I had a long chat, he handed me an old ten-peso bill.

"So that you won't forget me," he said.

The bill stayed in my wallet for some time. It is now locked in a drawer at home.

Intramuros' Jun Peralta, 66, came to the PAL Interclub with one dream: To play at Alta Vista. He got his wish.

"I owe you one," he told Nimrod NL Quinonez, the sports editor of The Freeman, after the round. "Now I know why everybody calls Alta Vista the most beautiful golf course in the Visayas."

Actually, Sen. Tito Sotto had a hand in Jun's being able to play at the course that offers a breathtaking view of the sea and the misty covered island of Bohol.

During his round at Alta Vista, Jun paused to say: "Too bad Erap is out of Malacañang. He was the only president of the republic that I could approach as we are on a first-name basis."

They were childhood buddies in San Juan, Metro Manila.

Bombi Aznar, just about the jolliest senior golfer this side of the golfing globe, was having a face massage at the Cebu Country Club barber shop when I saw him on Friday.

"I didn't see you enter," he said.

"Your eyes were closed," I said.

We laughed.

Bombi and his son, Genie, are friends of mine from way back. When I bought my first Cebu-made guitar here in 1977, Genie was my guide and personal driver. The guitar is still around. But not the shoulder-length hair anymore. Mine and Genie's.

"Let's play tomorrow," said Bombi, who is now chair of Alta Vista. "Lunch at 12 and then off we go?"

Had to beg off. Pressure of work.

Bombi, in his '60s now, hasn't changed. He thinks young, acts young. Years ago, his drink was the Chilean wine Los Boldos.

"The best," he said then.

I'm not sure now if he still drinks that.

But what I can never forget about Bombi is this statement he uttered years ago: "Do you know that the only thing I didn't like about my father was the fact that he didn't encourage me to play golf when I was young?"

What could be an apter complaint than that for scions of millionaires like Bombi?

Bombi picked up golf when he was nearing 50 already. He became addicted to it. The addiction has stayed.

Love, Jimenez share lead

LOS ANGELES—That $500,000 bonus for winning the West Coast Swing is an afterthought for Davis Love III, who suddenly has a better prize in mind.

Love, who went 34 months without winning and now can't seem to do anything wrong, had a 4-under 67 at soggy Riviera Country Club on Friday to share the lead with Miguel Angel Jimenez of Spain after two rounds of the Nissan Open.

"Winning at Riviera is the focal point," said Love, who was at 7-under 135. *AP*

Singh dispatches Minoza, grabs 1-stroke margin in Singapore

SINGAPORE—Vijay Singh of Fiji gave a professional golf lesson to Frankie Minoza of the Philippines to snatch the lead in the third round of the Singapore Masters here yesterday in a match briefly interrupted by a thundershower.

It was not over until the final hole as Singh played some steady golf to take the outright lead with a score of 18 under par 195 after three rounds at the Singapore Island Country Club's Bukit Course.

Leading by two strokes after 16 holes, Minoza dropped a shot each on the final two holes to finish one stroke behind at 17 under par 196. His third round score of even par 71 was certainly a big let down after his second round blitz of 10 under par 61 Friday.

When play resumed after a two and a half hour interruption due to a thundershower, players found it difficult to get used to the vastly changed conditions.

Dry and sleek before the rains, the course was turned into a quagmire after the downpour and when play finally finished, floodlights had been switched on to jelp players on the 18th green.

Sweden's Frederik Lundberg could be providing the toughest challenge as he finished the day at 16 under par 197, two off the lead tied with England's Warren Bennett.

Colin Montgomerie of Scotland lies one shot further behind at 15 under par to complete the final two trios. *AFP*

3rd round scores:

V. Singh, Fiji 64-63-68=195;
F. Minoza, Philippines 64-61-71=196;
M. Lundberg, Sweden 69-64-64=197;
W. Bennett, England 63-69-65=197;
C. Montgomerie, Scotland 66-67-65=198;
P. Marksaeng, Thailand 67-63-69=199
L. K. Chi, Taiwan 67-69-64=200;
A. Wall, England 64-71-65=200.
P. Harrington, Ireland 63-67-71=201;
S. Dodd, Wales 69-66-66=201;
M. Lafeber, Netherlands 64-67-70=201

'Tito Boy' tourney

GOLF Power today features the highlights of the annual "Tito Boy's" Trophy held at the east course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. The show, now on its fifth year, is aired every Sunday, 3 p.m. on IBC-13 and is hosted by Philippine Sportswriters Association major awardee for amateur golf Gerard Cantada. It is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and is sponsored by Cebu Pacific and Outback Steakhouse.

MIÑOZA: Follows his eighth-hole shot. AP

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA—Michigan State Spartans vs Penn State Nittany Lions at 8 a.m. on ESPN
Chinese National Basketball League, Semifinals at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Nissan Open, Day Three at 1 p.m. (delayed) on Star Sports
Golfglobe 2001 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports
BOXING: Joe Louis - The Early Years at 12 noon (r) on ESPN
Friday Night Fights at 11 p.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: ATP Kroger St. Jude Indoor, Semifinals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
ATP Tennis Show at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN
ICE SKATING: NHK Trophy 2000 Highlights #3 at 5 p.m. on Star Sports

Pacquiao keeps WBC Int'l title

Fotogs stage walkout

BY JUNE NAVARRO

FILIPINO Manny Pacquiao finally cornered North Korean Tetsutora Senrima in the fifth round and, with a barrage of punches, ended the one-sided bout at the Ynares Sports Center in Antipolo City.

Referee Wan Soo-yoh, sensing that the Korean could no longer continue, stopped the fight in one minute and six seconds, enabling the Filipino to retain his WBC international superbantamweight crown for the fourth time.

The 22-year-old Pacquiao, who dominated the Korean from the opening bell, improved his record to 31 wins (21 knockouts) and two losses.

Learning from his near-defeat to Nadel Hussein at the same venue last year, Pacquiao came out ready and sharp, repeatedly catching Tetsutora with crisp punches to the body and face.

Meanwhile, photographers of the country's major dailies and sports magazines walked out of the Pacquiao-Senrima fight last night after being pushed around by burly guards in black T-shirts.

Ernie Sarmiento, INQUIRER chief photographer, said the ring announcer, allegedly from the camp of promoter Bebot Elorde, instigated the shabby treatment about 20 photographers got when he ordered them out of the ringside.

The unruly crowd also threw objects upon the photographers who were then taking shots.

"We're already kneeling so as not to obstruct the audience's view so there's no reason for them to get angry," said Sarmiento. "We've covered many international fights and we were not treated as rudely as tonight."

Sports Life's Edwin Dellosillo said they also experienced the same treatment during Pacquiao's defense against Hussein.

Boracay hosting Corporate Cup

CONTINUING a vision to showcase the country's premier golfing destinations, the Corporate Cup Golf Foundation, Inc. brings to Boracay the 13th staging of its annual golf championships with a two-part bash at the Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club.

This year's Corporate Cup kicks off with the seniors competitions on Feb. 27-28 and the regular event set a week later on March 6-7.

The principal presentors are the GP Barnes Group of Companies, College Assurance Plan, the Fil-Estate Group of Companies and the Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club.

Major sponsors are San Miguel Beer, Premier Wine and Spirits, Inc. and Northwest Airlines. Scholl, the world's specialist in foot and leg care, is also supporting the event.

Registration is still ongoing at the Corporate Cup Golf Foundation, Inc. office at Unit 119, fourth floor Tower Ground of the Makati Cinema Square Complex with tel. nos. 811-1222 or 811-1230.

Cecil Hechanova, chair of the CCGFI, said that they intend to visit all of the top golfing points in the country if only to boost the promotion of the local golf tourism.

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Foundation U gains q'final

BY JUNE NAVARRO

UPSTART Foundation University fortified its overall championship bid as Rolyn Marquicias and Melanie Eralon barged into the quarterfinals of the women's division in the 5th Beach Volleyball University Challenge yesterday at the CCP grounds.

Marquicias and Eralon drubbed Lyceum's Agnes Dichaves and Janet Bermudo, 12-4, to book a ticket for Boracay Island, venue of the tournament finals.

Their schoolmates—Edward Balbuena and Isidro Bongcasan of FU's team A and Ralph Mangueto and Kent Bulabon from its team B—earlier snagged quarterfinal seats in the men's division.

Similarly, University of San Jose Recoletos-Cebu will have a two-pronged attack in the quarters as the highly touted pair of Norvie Labuga and Dave Arreza downed Raffy Mosuela and Orlando Malazab of San Sebastian College, 12-9, in the men's category.

Last Friday, fellow Recoletos Jamel Macasamat and Jerome Capada entered the quarters along with Mapua's Albert Alano and Eliezer Collado.

Eight pairs from the men's and women's division mix it up today to determine the semifinalists who will dispute the Kings and Queens of Beach Volleyball title in Boracay Island on April 21-22.

Labuga, the other half of last year's runner-up USJR, anchored the Recoletos to fend off a stubborn stand of Mosuela and Malazab, who later qualified after scoring a 12-11 squeaker over Adamson's Dante Alinsunurin and Jerome Hing.

The Cebuanos trimmed De La Salle University, 12-2, Adamson University, 12-6, and University of the East, 12-1 before ending their odyssey against San Sebastian.

Spikers Pine Estrada and Ailane Quina of Adamson University dealt Dichaves and Bermudo of Lyceum another beating, 12-5, to complete the list of quarterfinalists in the women's division.

University of St. La Salle, University of San Carlos-Cebu, defending champion San Sebastian College also qualified in the quarterfinals.

5th Nestea Beach Volleyball University Challenge

QUARTERFINAL ROUND QUALIFIERS

February 23 results:

Schools/Organizations		Score
Men's Division		
South Western Univ. - Cebu (Alumni Association)	def. De La Salle Univ.- Taft 1 (Outdoor Club)	12-7
Mapua 1 (PISCE)	def. Univ. of San Jose Rec.-Ceb.1 (Athletics)	12-9
Univ.of San Jose Rec.-Ceb.1 (Athletics)	def. Univ. of San Carlos-Cebu (SSC)	12-3
Women's Division		
Univ. of St La Salle - Bac. 1 (Marketers Union)	def. Letran 1 (COMSOC)	12-4
De La Salle Univ. - Taft 1 (Psych. Org.)	def. Letran 1 (COMSOC)	12-4

Catch these winning teams fight it out during the Quarterfinals on February 25, 8 a.m. at the CCP Complex.

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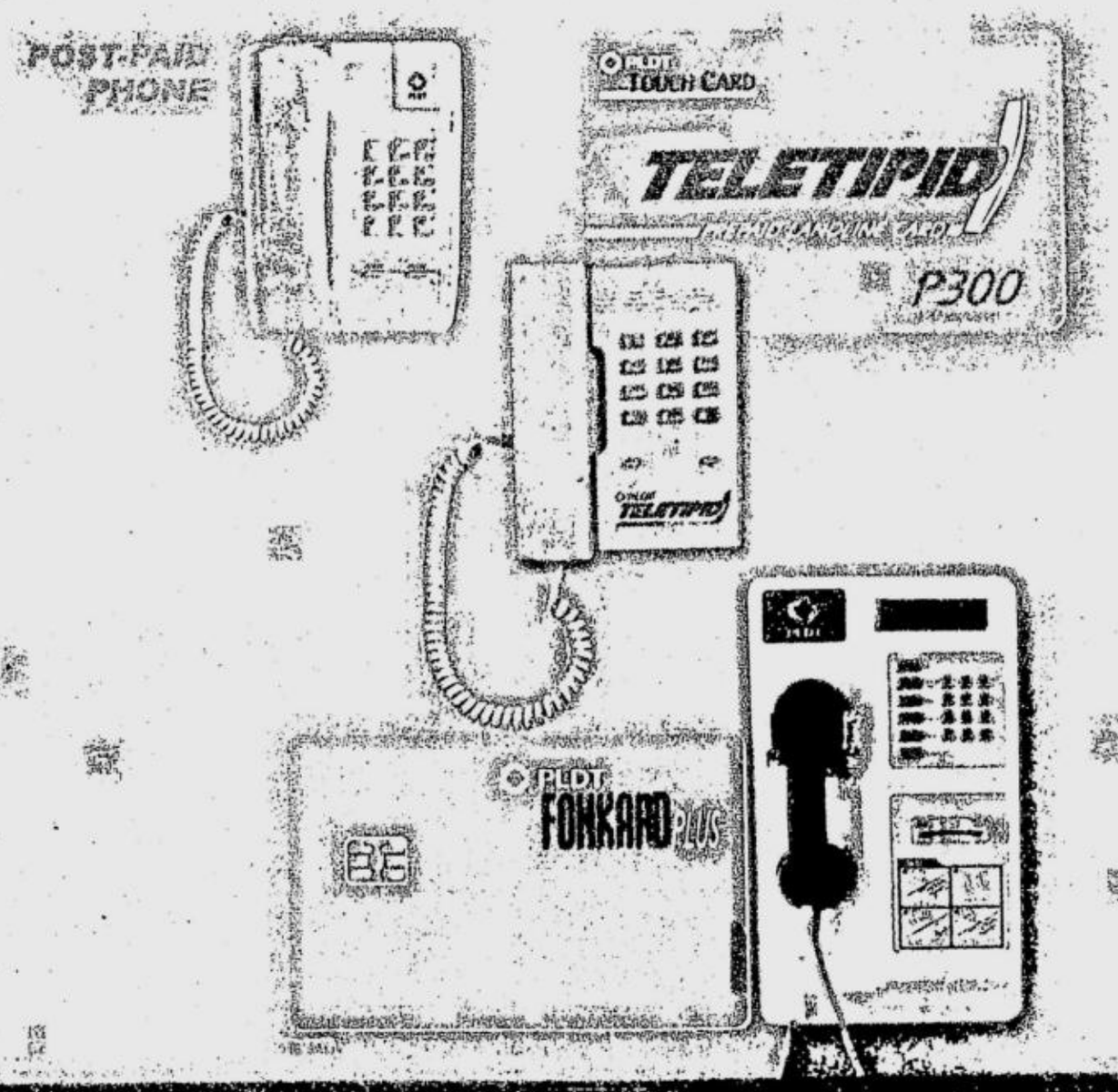

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■ Group led by woman hunted for P10-M cell phone scam A24

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

2 kidnapped traders rescued, three kidnappers arrested

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO

POLICE on Friday arrested three kidnappers and rescued two Filipino-Chinese businesswomen who were abducted on a national highway in Pili, Camarines Sur three weeks ago.

A son of one of the kidnapping victims said he was so moved by the diligence of the lawmen, including a shy officer who gave up being with his wife on Valentine's Day because he was working on the kidnapping case. The victim's son sent the shy officer's wife a bouquet of roses.

In a news conference at Camp Crame yesterday, Interior Secretary Jose Lina announced the successful rescue of Fe Cosay Chua and Susan Casano, and praised the men who took part in the operation.

The third kidnap victim, Salvacion Cosay Tan, was freed last week in Alabang, Muntinplupa after her family paid P4.86 million in ransom.

PNP chief Deputy Director General Leandro Mendoza identified the suspects as Santos Remuyan, Cesar Ramos, and Homer Rasado, all natives of Bula, Camarines Sur and believed members of a newly formed kidnap ring tagged as the "Bicolano Gang."

Members of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), the Intelligence Group (IG) of the Philippine National Police, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and local officers of Sariaya town in Quezon, found the victims chained and padlocked inside the suspects' hideout in a remote Sariaya barangay Friday evening.

2 KIDNAPPED/ A24

Red Bull's Davon Harp runs over Club Filipino woman

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

HOTSHOTS of the Philippine Basketball Association seem to be getting in hot water these days.

Yesterday, a day after Pasig police arrested Pop Cola stalwart Rudy Hatfield for allegedly beating up a couple in a Makati disco last year, another PBA big guy got into a fix after running over an employee of the Club Filipino in San Juan.

Fil-American Davon Harp, power forward of the Batang Red Bull, ran into trouble with janitorial service supervisor Marcelina Tolentino on Club Filipino Avenue when he recklessly bumped her around 1 p.m. yesterday.

Tolentino, 24, a resident of Sta. Mesa, Manila, suffered fractured ribs and is now recovering at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital.

RED/ A24

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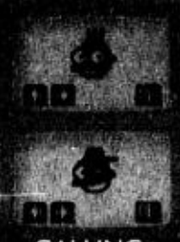
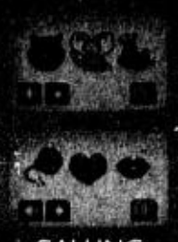

CALLING FACES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Group hunted for ₱10-M phone scam

By Jerome Aning

MANILA policemen are tracking down suspected swindlers, said to be led by the daughter of a barangay chair, for reportedly duping about 200 people of more than P10 million.

Chief Insp. Eduardo Villena, head of the Western Police District's general assignment section, identified the suspected ringleader as Irene Villarosa, 23, of Vigan Street, Sta. Mesa, and daughter of Barangay 547 chair Renato Villarosa, 50.

In their complaint filed before the Western Police District's general assignment section, some of the victims said Irene and her unidentified associates failed to deliver Nokia cellular phone units such as 3210, 5110, 6210, 7110, and 3310, which they ordered.

Payments ranged from P8,000 to more than P1 million, they said.

They said the suspects disappeared when the buyers started looking for them to ask why the units had not been delivered on time.

But Irene's father yesterday told reporters that his daughter had a problem with her suppliers.

He also gave the assurance that Irene would show up and "fix the problem" by tomorrow.

Wilfredo Idlo, 32, manager of a freight forwarding company, posted the biggest loss with P1,096,000.

"We trusted them because they always released cell phone units on time in our earlier orders," he said. "As for me, I hoped to earn a little by selling the units to my friends."

The victims told police that early orders were faithfully delivered. But as the following transactions became bigger, the delivery of the units began to be delayed.

"We will be the ones who will be sued by our customers if the deliveries are not made," said a woman complainant who asked not to be named. She said she still has to tell her clients that they paid for cell phones that would not be delivered.

Irene, who claimed to be a Nokia franchisee, convinced many of the complainants to buy from her because she would reduce cell phone prices by half if they placed bulk orders.

The scheme began to attract customers two months ago when Irene's co-workers at the Circle Freight Forwarding Co. based in Parañaque City spread word about the cheap units, and even recruited friends and neighbors to join the venture.

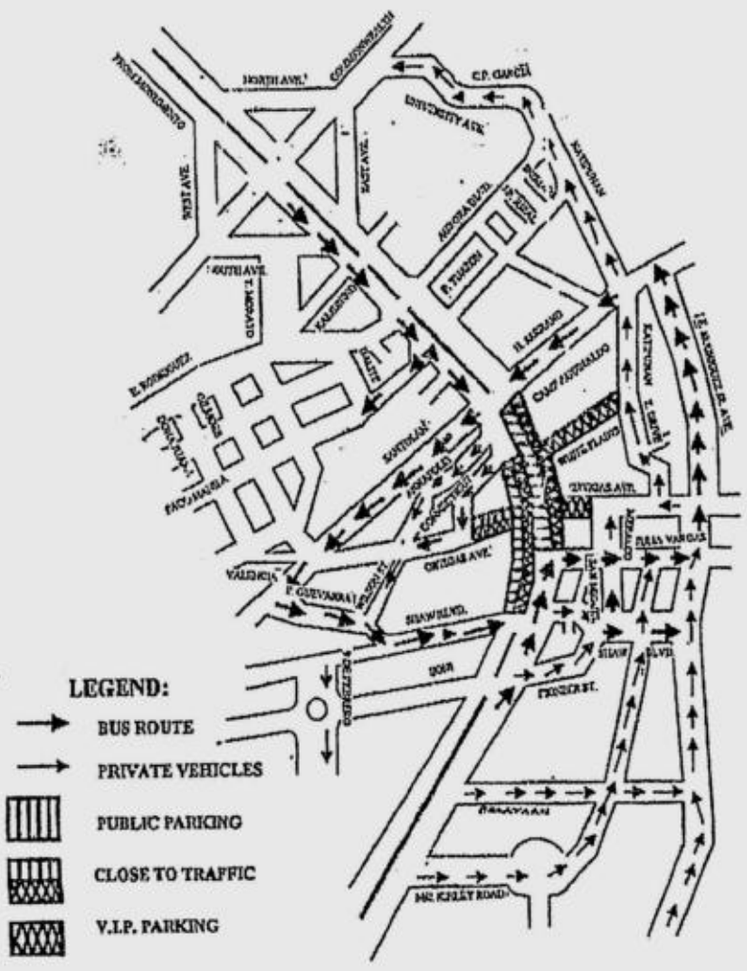
Buyers in schools, private companies and households began to order from Irene, with some coming from as far as Batangas and Nueva Ecija.

The complainants said they became suspicious when the suspects informed them there would be "a little delay" in the delivery because of a problem with suppliers.

The suspects then asked for an extension of one week. Soon, the suspects refused to answer calls from the complainants.

Inspector Villena said the suspects would be given time to answer the accusations before they are charged with large-scale estafa before the city prosecutor's office.

Edsa stretch closed today



Nurse helping other Filipinas make their dreams come true

TALES OF THE CITY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE many Filipino nurses, Florita C. Tolentino dreamed of working in the United States to earn more money for her children. Her dream came true in 1976 when she was hired by a hospital in New York.

Twenty-five years later, Tolentino is working to help other Filipino professionals fulfill their American dream.

Tolentino, 65, has emerged as the leading recruiter of teachers and nurses to the US. She was able to bring to the US close to 400 teachers since 1992 and more than 3,000 nurses since 1986, helping them start a decent life for themselves in the land of milk and honey.

"I never dreamed I would be in this business," Tolentino says. "I was lucky maybe because I have a jolly personality. I always say that everything I have is from God's good graces."

She says she stumbled into the business of recruiting when she was doing night duty at a county hospital in southern Texas. The hospital administrator asked her to accompany a director to the Philippines to recruit more nurses to fill in an acute shortage at that time.

"I was the leader of the Filipina nurses when it came to making jokes," she says. "We were in one of our sessions when the administrator commented that we Filipinas were the only people having fun even when we were doing night duty. He thought it would be a good idea to bring more of us to Texas."

She accompanied the hospital director to the Philippines, if only for the free ticket since she did not know a thing about attracting nurses to go back with them to Texas.

Good time

"It was a good time for nurses back in 1984," she recalls. "Hospital representatives wined and dined the nurses. (In a recruitment fair) they had these beautiful brochures and gave all sorts of promises just to convince the nurses to go with them.

"We only had a table," she adds.

On the third day of the recruitment fair, her hospital was not able to attract even one applicant. Tolentino went into action.

"I followed these nurses around and I went with them to these interviews. They noticed that I knew what questions to ask these representatives so when they asked me where I would sign up, I said I would sign up with my hospital. About 15 joined me. It was only much later that I confessed that I was actually working in that hospital."

The experience made her realize that there was money to be made in bringing more nurses to fill up the shortage in the US, not just in Texas but in other states, especially with the $5,000 fee for recruiting just one nurse.

Fulfilling

"I struck out on my own," she says. "It took me about two years to get all the paperwork done and to fix the processing system so that nurses can be given working visas and permanent resident status. In 1986, I was able to bring in my first batch of nurses to the US. It was fulfilling."

Tolentino, however, stresses that recruiting does not only involve getting nurses to go from the Manila international airport to the airport in the US. She says she has taken it upon herself to orient the nurses, help them get a place to stay in the US, even teach them how to use public transportation.

She says she also provides easy payment terms to her recruits since she knows they will be sending a big part of their money to their families in the Philippines.

Teachers

Tolentino branched out to hiring teachers in 1992 when she saw that there would be a big shortage of teachers in the US. The US, she says, has no choice but to recruit from abroad as American students eye careers in the information technology field and existing teachers are getting old and about to retire.

Tolentino has tied up with JS Contractor Inc., the biggest exporter of Filipino workers.

TOLENTINO

"The lack of teachers and nurses is one problem that I believe the US will never be able to solve," she says. "Americans simply do not want these jobs. We have an advantage because we speak English and our education system is patterned after the US. We do not have to adjust that much."

She, however, says the Philippine government should put in place programs that will encourage Filipino nurses and teachers to remain in the country.

"I would like an opportunity to tell the education department that they should be doing something because they cannot just simply stop these professionals from seeking better employment opportunities abroad."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 25, 2000
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Sir 27:4-7

When a sieve is shaken the dirt falls through; so, too, the defects of a man are seen when he begins to speak.

The kiln tests the potter's handiwork; a man is tested by his conversation.

A well-tended tree is shown by its fruits so a man's feelings can be detected in what he says.

Praise no one before he has spoken, since this is the acid test.

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 15:54-58

When our perishable being puts on imperishable life, when our mortal being puts on immortality, the word of Scripture will be fulfilled: *Death has been swallowed up by victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?*

Sin is the sting of death to kill, and the Law is what gives force to sin. But give thanks to God who gives us the victory through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

So then, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast and do not be moved. Improve constantly in the work of the Lord, knowing that with him your labor is not without fruit.

Gospel: Lk 6:39-45

Jesus offered this example, "Can a blind person lead another blind person? Surely both will fall into a ditch. A disciple is not above the master; but when fully trained, he will be like the master. So why do you pay attention to the speck in your brother's eye while you have a log in your eye and are not conscious of it? How can you say to your neighbor: 'Friend, let me take this speck out of your eye,' when you can't remove the log in your own? You hypocrite! First remove the log from your own eye and then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your neighbor's eye.

No healthy tree bears bad fruit, no poor tree bears good fruit. And each tree is known by the fruit it bears: you don't gather figs from thorns, or grapes from brambles. Similarly the good person draws good things from the good stored in the heart, and an evil person draws evil things from the evil stored in the heart. For the mouth speaks from the fullness of the heart."

Commentary

Think about the teachers that made a real impact in your life. We usually remember them not just for the things they taught us, but for the little gestures of kindness and the efforts they invested in their teaching to bring out the best in us. Today's Gospel puts forward the age-old wisdom in teaching by example, if we want to be effective in guiding, leading, and accompanying our children into becoming mature and decent human beings. Aging is not really about becoming senile and forgetful. It is in fact about remembering. It is the young who forget easily, for lack of experience. The elderly are meant to serve as living signposts that lead us on the way. When the aged chide the young about being misled, should they not know why? Well raised children are always the best testimony to good parenting.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Credibility of witness; relationship of witness to victim does not impair credibility—The assessment of credibility of witnesses made by the trial court is generally accorded great weight and respect in view of its unique opportunity to observe the demeanor of the witnesses during their testimonies. In the absence of any matters of substance which may have been overlooked by the trial court, the Court finds no cogent reason to overturn the findings of fact of the trial court. The mere fact that the sole eyewitness presented in court is the brother-in-law of the victim does not affect his credibility. Mere relationship of a witness to the victim, whether by consanguinity or affinity, does not necessarily impair his credibility as a witness nor does it impair his positive and clear testimony and render it unworthy. On the contrary, relationship with a victim would deter a witness from indiscriminately implicating anybody to the crime. His natural and usual interest would be to identify the malefactor and secure his conviction to obtain true justice for the death of a relative. More importantly, the eyewitness account as to the manner of the attack and the location of the wounds is corroborated by the post-mortem examination. Hence, appellants' bare denials cannot overcome their positive identification by the prosecution witness. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Quisumbing, People v. Ubaldo, G.R. Nos. 128110-11, October 9, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Lani in Bacoor

LANI Mercado Revilla, wife of Cavite Gov. Bong Revilla, yesterday was proclaimed the Lakas-NUCD standard bearer in Bacoor, Cavite, where she is running for mayor in the May 14 elections.

Governor Revilla, the Lakas-NUCD Cavite chair, administered the oath to his wife and other officers and members of the Lakas-NUCD Bacoor Chapter.

Mrs. Revilla is scheduled to file her certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) tomorrow.

She said her four-point program of governance includes Linis Ganda ng Kapaligiran, Aksyon para sa Kaayusan at Kaunlaran, Nagmula sa Pusong Serbisyong Panlipunan and Integridad sa Pamamahala. Her running mate is reelectionist Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar.

Girl, 15: Pa raped me daily, except holidays

By Blanche S. Rivera

LIKE most schoolchildren, Gina wished the Christmas vacation last year would not end. But not because she had to go back to school.

Gina, a third year high school student, knew she would again be abused by her father, who she said had sexually molested her everyday since September and gave her a break only on Saturdays and during the Yuletide season.

The suspect, a 37-year-old vendor and resident of Bagong Bayan in Taguig, was arrested last month by policemen assigned with the Department of Interior and Local Government.

He was charged with 87 counts of rape before a Pasig Court only on Friday and was not allowed to post bail for his alleged offense.

In her report to police, Gina (not her real name) said her father crept into her room one early morning in the second week of September, touched her arm to wake her up and asked her to undress at knifepoint.

She said she pleaded with him not to pursue his obvious intentions, but her father refused and told her to shut up or he would kill her mother and her siblings.

The girl's mother worked as a sewer from Sunday to Friday and would leave the house as early as before 7 a.m. to return after 4 p.m. She was home all day to take care of her children only on Saturday.

"Everyday after my mother left, he would come to my room and do it again," Gina told police in Filipino. "Even on my first day of menstruation last Nov. 5, he did it. He didn't even mind that I was bleeding profusely."

The abuse continued day after day, except on Saturdays when her mother was home, which the girl said served as "a day-off" from molestation for her father.

She said she also got a reprieve from her father on Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1 and 2.

Finally unable to bear the sexual abuse, she confided in her mother on the night of Jan. 15. The following day, she and her siblings were taken to an aunt's house in Parañaque where they could be safe.

Mother and daughter sought the help of the Pasig police on Jan. 17 after the ABS-CBN show "Katapat" advised them to take the matter to police.

2 kidnapped . . .

(From page A23)

Police seized from the suspects a Toyota Revo (WMW 910), which was allegedly used to abduct the women in Pili. The lawmen also recovered P325,000 which was part of the ransom paid to kidnappers.

PAOCTF chief Director Hermogenes Ebdane reported that the suspects actually snatched three women on Jan. 30 and asked P40 million in ransom from the victims' families.

The kidnappers later raised the ransom demand to P60 million when they learned that the victims' families were willing to pay more.

By then, the victims' relatives have already reported the matter to the police.

"Tan's information pointed to the whereabouts of her colleagues which resulted in the successful rescue," Ebdane said of the victim who was freed earlier.

With the information provided by Tan, the police were able to identify the suspects and their safehouse in Sariaya.

After the rescue, the victims identified the suspects in a police lineup at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

Ebdane said efforts are still underway to arrest other members of the kidnap group.

The relatives of Chua and Casano profusely thanked the members of the rescue team, and commended one IG agent in particular for "painstakingly" working on the case.

"They are so diligent," a son of Chua told the Inquirer. "My family and I almost lost hope, but the rescuers remained steadfast in their belief that they would safely deliver the victims."

The young Chua pointed to a shy and unassuming IG officer, a police superintendent who requested that he not be named.

The son said that the officer was with the family, even on Valentine's Day, working meticulously on the case.

"I was touched by his devotion to his job," the young Chua said of the officer. "The officer should have been with his wife on Valentine's. To make up for that, I bought a bouquet of roses and sent it to his wife. The officer didn't know that I sent flowers to his wife. He found out about it later when he and his wife met."

"The key to this successful rescue operation was the cooperation and trust given by the victim's family to the PNP organization, who worked on the case like one big family," Lina said.

In the same press conference, Ebdane presented one of the alleged kidnappers of slain Greek shipping executive Felippo Orfanos.

Ebdane said his men are now interrogating Abdul Macaumbang in connection with the Orfanos' kidnap-slay.

Orfanos, port captain of a Manila-based Greek shipping line, was abducted on Jan. 15 at the corner of United Nations Ave., and Jorge Bocobo Street.

Ebdane said the victim was killed on the same day he was abducted.

He said local police found the body of the Greek in a canal lining the highway of Barangay Maybakal, Morong, Rizal three days later. *With AFP*

Red Bull's . . .

(From page A23)

PO2 Ricardo Cristobal of the San Juan Police Community Precinct 1 in Greenhills said Harp was driving his new and still unlicensed black Ford Expedition to Unimart when he failed to notice Tolentino crossing the street.

Harp, who stays at the Platinum 2000 building on Annapolis Street in Greenhills, was going to buy cleanser at the nearby Unimart. Tolentino had just emerged from Club Filipino when she was bumped by the Ford Expedition, police said.

Harp told police he did not notice Tolentino because he was following a yellow car, and Tolentino, who he said seemed to have emerged from out of the blue, was also clad in yellow.

The long and messy parade of cars along the street at the time, owing to the various events hosted by the historic restaurant in celebration of the 1986 Edsa revolt, also did not help, police said.

Tolentino was brought to the hospital by the mobile police unit in Greenhills, but she has not yet expressed any intentions of filing charges against Harp, PBA's rookie of the year last year.

PO2 Cristobal said Harp has been cooperating with police on the case and even sent his lawyer to settle the matter.

On Friday, it was Hatfield who was taken by police to the Pasig headquarters on the strength of an arrest warrant issued by a Makati court against the PBA player for allegedly beating up Michelle Lara and Juan Ignacio Araneta at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati last July.

Hatfield, however, immediately posted bail after being escorted by police from a Pop Cola practice at a Mandaluyong gym.

Dagger looks lead to stabbing

A COMPUTER technician in Makati early yesterday morning was stabbed in the neck with a screwdriver for allegedly giving another man dagger looks.

Jose Marie Layog, 39, a resident of Tejeros Bliss 2, H. Santos Street, is in critical condition at the Makati Medical Center. Police identified the suspect as Mac-Mac Diaz, of Garden Bliss, also in Makati.

PO3 Rio Bucalan of the Makati City Police Homicide Section said the stabbing happened at 2:55 a.m. on H. Santos Street.

Witnesses said the two men chanced upon each other on the street. Shortly after, Diaz flew into a rage after Layog allegedly gave him dagger looks.

Diaz took a screwdriver from his house and chased the unsuspecting Layog.

Diaz was later arrested and detained at the Makati City Jail. *Alcuin Papa*

Old woman hammered to death

By Philip C Tubeza

ELENA C. Bacares, 61, was about to go out for a jog in Quezon City before dawn yesterday when three robbers struck and beat her to death.

Bacares, of Catherine St. Barangay Holy Spirit, did not make it alive to the hospital after bus driver Jose O. Biovicente, 35, of Tulip Street, West Fairview, Quezon City, and his two other cohorts allegedly beat her to death using a hammer, said investigator SPO1 Demosthenes Rebancos.

The suspects took Bacares' jewelry and P5,000 from her *sari-sari* store, police said.

Bacares' neighbors beat up Biovicente until they were stopped, Rebancos said.

Bacares had just opened her store and was about to go out for a jog around 5:30 a.m. when the three men sneaked into her home, police said.

"The main door was already opened partially and so they came in easily," Rebancos said.

The men proceeded to beat up the helpless old woman with a hammer, he said. The woman had bruises on the nape, arms, chest, and legs, Rebancos added.

After the men took Bacares' jewelry and money from her store, they hastily went out and tried to escape. But before Biovicente could flee, the victim's neighbors, who heard the commotion in her house, caught him, Rebancos said.

"Her neighbors beat him to a pulp after they heard Bacares was in critical condition," the policeman said. "He is still in the hospital but is under guard."

But Biovicente's two cohorts were able to escape with the loot, police said.

Bacares was declared dead on arrival at the East Avenue Medical Center around 6:30 a.m., Rebancos said.

Penelope Cruz has viewers eating out of her hands

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

"WOMAN on Top" is a tasty cinematic confection that combines love and cooking in a seductive manner. The movie's theme isn't all that new, as viewers who recall the "eating and flirting" scene in "Tom Jones" will affirm. But this new movie devotes many more sequences to its "aphrodisiac" conceit, so it's more of a piece.

In the movie's story **Murilo Benicio** plays the owner of a hot seafood restaurant in Brazil. His lovely wife (**Penelope Cruz**) is a great cook and looker, but her male-chauvinist husband keeps her practically locked away in the kitchen.

She doesn't really mind because she loves him so much—until she watches him in bed with a neighbor, and she storms out of his life. She flies to San Francisco to look up her best friend, a drag queen named **Monica**, and he helps her pick up the pieces of her life.

She tries to find work as a chef, but none is forthcoming, so she settles for being a cooking instructor. In no time at all, her unique combination of sexy looks and hot cookery attracts a huge following.

One of her instant fans is a TV executive who, in a burst of inspiration, thinks up a cooking show for the sexy Brazilian lass. The viewing public laps her up and she becomes a star practically overnight—but she's still unhappy.

Her husband flies in to make amends, but she can no longer love him because, before she left Brazil, she participated in a ritual that prompted the folk goddess Yemanja to "kill" her ardent love for her husband.

That why the penitent guy can't win her back despite his earnest efforts to mend his ways.—Until she decides to convince the goddess to restore her love for her husband.

In the end, all's well with our heroine's world, and we leave her making love to her husband, now in a dominant position of course—and he's no longer complaining.

A nice, sexy, savory tale, but it's really just a cute, faxu-folk trifle. What "makes" the film is Penelope Cruz's pert yet seductive performance.

The actress has an Audrey Hepburn-type gamin quality to her, but this being 2001 instead of 1957, Cruz is hot instead of soignee, as though Audrey had bitten into a super-spicy jalapeno. Cruz's performance has a heady effect on viewers that almost glosses over the thinness of the movie's plot.

Benicio also scores points with his youthful, macho appeal, but the actor who matches Cruz's zest for performance is **Harold Perrineu Jr.**, who plays the zaftig Monica.

"Woman on Top" has a "magic realist" element that comes to the fore when Cruz's character creates her "intoxicating" dishes, and when she connects with the supernatural world of folk mythology to help her solve her problems.

But, at its core, the movie is actually just a savvy production that uses its sweetly sexy female star to seduce viewers into a cinematic trance. The food's good, but it's really Penelope Cruz who soon has the audience eating out of her hands.

TV treats

TODAY at 9 a.m. on Star Movies, the film on view is "Ravenous" with **Guy Pearce** and **Robert Carlyle**.

On Monday, Feb. 26 at 9 p.m. on Star Movies, **Judd Nelson, John Hurt** and **Elizabeth Perkins** star in the comedy, "Billboard US Countdown Hot 1000 Singles."

Fundamentals of Musicianship course

THE MIRIAM College Center for Applied Music will offer a course in Fundamentals of Musicianship from April 16 to May 17. The offering is an integrated course for grade school teachers, but can be credited to graduate students as a three-credit course. Teacher is **Ruby Salvoza**, who has a master's degree in Music Education from the University of the Philippines.

To be taught are theory, voice class, piano class, music literature and music history. Classes will be held three times a week. Call telefax 426-1822 for details.

Quote unquote

JOHN Updike: A leader is one who, out of madness or goodness, volunteers to take upon himself the woes of the people. There are few men so foolish, hence the erratic quality of leadership in the world.

Robert Townsend: True leadership must be for the benefit of the followers, not the enrichment of the leaders.

Harry S. Truman: How far would Moses have gone if he had taken a poll in Egypt?

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Tue Feb. 27 Herbert Bautista
Tuesday's Tambay Time:
PITONG GAMOL

Wed Feb. 28 Dina Bonnevie
Madamdaming Miyerkules:
TAG-ARAW, TAG-ULAN

Thu Mar. 1 Andrew E.
Director's Masterpiece:
HUMANAP KA NG PANGET

Fri Mar. 2 Rufa Mae Quinto
Premiere Express sa Biyernes:
MANA-MANA, TIBA-TIBA

Sat Mar. 3 Joko Diaz
KSP (Knockout Saturday Premiere):
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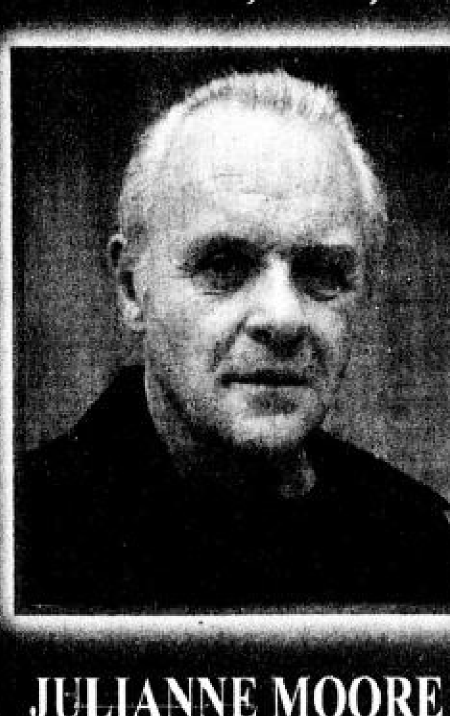

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ALMOST FAMOUS

Must-see film on sex & rock 'n roll

'Almost Famous' opens Mar 7

In the tradition of Cameron Crowe's Oscar-nominated JERRY MAGUIRE, ALMOST FAMOUS is a coming-of-age tale that is intelligent, well-written and infused with humor in unlikely places.

Inspired by the real-life experiences of the Academy Award nominee writer/director, ALMOST FAMOUS is the story of an unabashed rock 'n roll music fan tasked to write for Rolling Stone magazine in the '70s at age 15. As he joins the band Stillwater on tour, he befriends the band members and their groupies, and grows up, losing his virginity along the way.

ALMOST FAMOUS won a Golden Globe BEST PICTURE Award (Musical/Comedy), and 4 Academy Award nominations for Original Screenplay, Editing, and Supporting Actress for Kate Hudson and Frances McDormand. The movie also stars Billy Crudup, Jason Lee, Patrick Fugit, Anna Paquin and Fairuza Balk.

Embraced by critics, ALMOST FAMOUS is described as "absolutely fabulous," "honest and brilliant," "bighearted and bittersweet," and "filled with splendid performances."

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Tigerland marked director Joel Schumacher's welcomed return after the blockbusters like Batman & Robin, 8 mm, & Flawless. Tigerland also marked the deserving arrival of Irish actor Colin Farrell as Hollywood's hottest new discovery.

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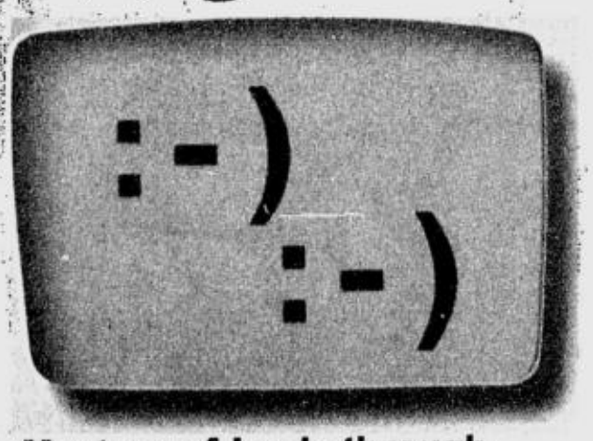

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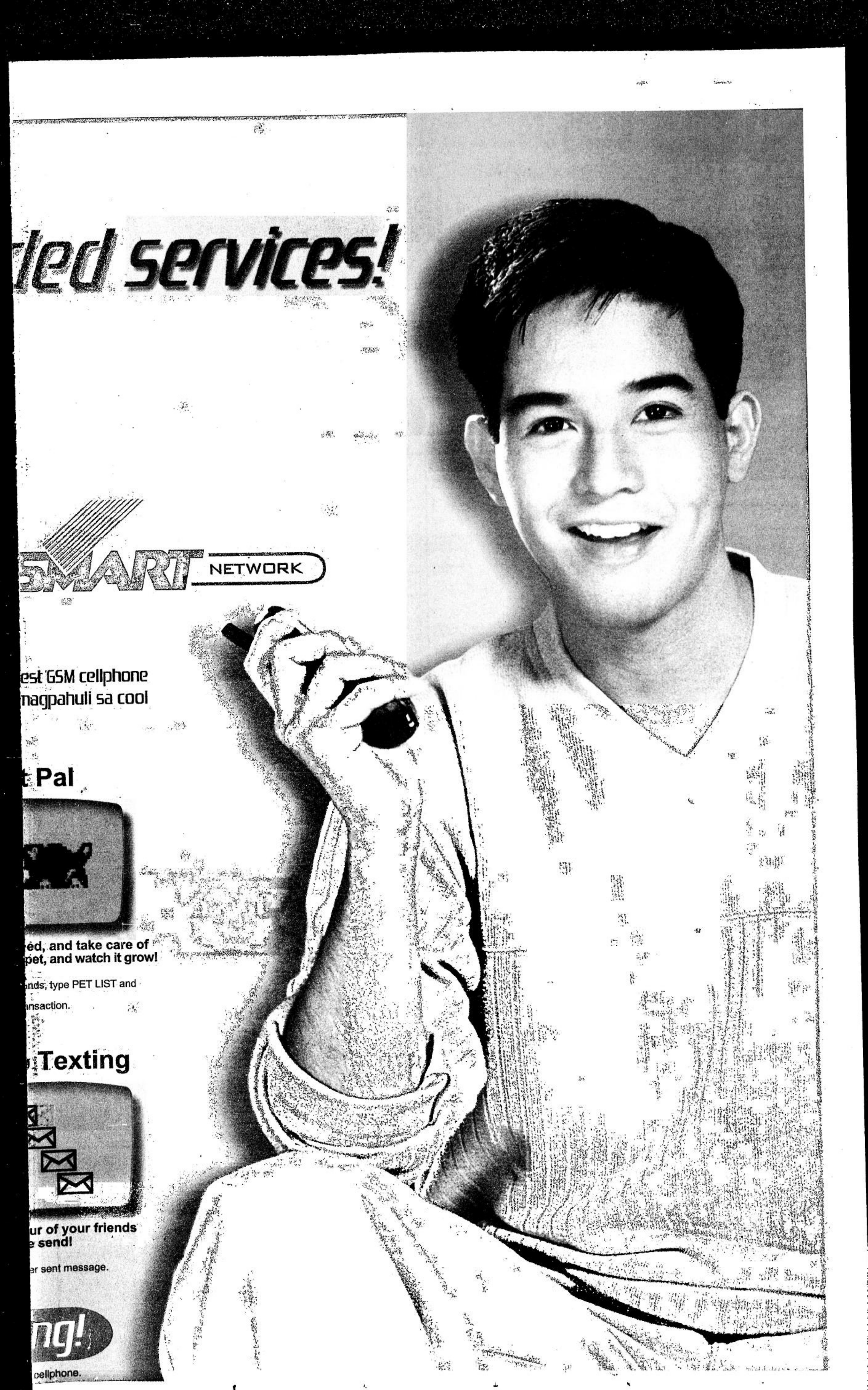
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1	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	TUHOG
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAY IT FORWARD
5	WAY OF THE GUN

Metropolis (Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	TUHOG
3	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
5	DEMON GATE
6	CAST AWAY
7	PAY IT FORWARD
8	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Uniwide Metromall (Las Piñas) tel. 873.5606 loc. 1074
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00

1	NAKED LIES
2	ANG BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
3	TABI TABI PO
4	
5	
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall (Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152
WATCH 3 MOVIE FOR ONLY P30.00

1	TALAHIB AT ROSAS
2	LITTLE HEROES LOST IN CHINA
3	TABI TABI PO
4	

Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BOOBA
2	VERTICAL LIMIT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC. tel 930.9515

1	RESERVE
2	TUHOG
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Spring (Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
A	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

JC Cinema (Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	
3	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City (Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	CAST AWAY
2	WAY OF THE GUN
3	DEMON GATE
4	FAMILY MAN
5	TUSONG TWOSOME
6	TUHOG
7 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
8 (SDDS)	SNATCH
9 (DOLBY)	WOMAN ON TOP

Caloocan tel 362.3508

2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	TUHOG
5	
6	

Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 (SDDS)	PAY IT FORWARD
5	DEMON GATE
6 (DOLBY)	SNATCH
7 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
8	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
9	WAY OF THE GUN

Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	TUHOG
4	DEMON GATE
5 (SDDS)	SNATCH
6	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
7 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
8	HAPLOS

Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	DEMON GATE
2	HAPLOS
3 (DTS)	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	TUHOG
5 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
6 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
7 (DOLBY)	TUSONG TWOSOME

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	TUHOG

Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	TUHOG

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TUHOG
Lords	HAPLOS
Jennet	TUHOG

Mandaluyong MARKETPLACE tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	PAY IT FORWARD
4	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Prima (Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	TUSONG TWOSOME

Super Cinerama (Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	CAST AWAY
2	TUHOG
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	TUSONG TWOSOME
5	PAY IT FORWARD

Divisoria Mall (Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	TUHOG
3	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4	MADAM X
5	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
6	KING COBRA 5

Baclaran LRT Cinema tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	TUHOG
3 (DTS)	CAST AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TUHOG
2 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DOLBY)	CAST AWAY
4	HAPLOS

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TUHOG
2	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
3	WAY OF THE GUN
4 (DTS)	TUSONG TWOSOME

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE CONTENDER
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
4	TUHOG
5	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 536.5101

1	TUHOG
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tagaytay tel (046) 413.0311

1	HAPLOS
2	102 DALMATIANS
3	IKA - 7 GLORYA

Morales Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE CONTENDER
2	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
3	TUSONG TWOSOME

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	TUSONG TWOSOME
2	TUHOG
3	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4	HAPLOS

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783

1 (DTS)	TUHOG
2 (DTS)	HAPLOS

Fourstep (Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	TUSONG TWOSOME

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	VIRGIN WIFE
2	VITAL PARTS
3	BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4	WHAT WOMEN WANT

Berma tel 879.2168

1	
2	

CitiMall (Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	CAST AWAY
2	TUHOG
3	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	102 DALMATIANS

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	CAST AWAY
2	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	FAMILY MAN
4 (DTS EX)	102 DALMATIANS

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a special presentation

Freestyle goes to a Hard place

AFTER their highly successful Valentine concert at the Araneta Coliseum, the Freestyle band performs in Hard Rock Café on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The band's countless fans, mostly teeners and young adults, can expect Freestyle to do their original hits such as "Before I Let You Go," "So Slow," "This Time," and "'Til I Found You," among many others, plus some of today's hits.

Entrance to the concert is P350, inclusive of two standard drinks.

"Freestyle in Concert" is brought to you by Hard Rock Café in cooperation with Bacardi Breezer, Countdown, and Mossimo.

Also at Hard Rock, Silk band rocks the house on Mondays, the League of Cayuca on Tuesdays, Freestyle on Wednesdays, Freeverse on Thursdays, Next Level and Parliament Syndicate on Fridays, B.I.G. on Saturdays, and Arnel Pineda and The Glass on Sundays.

Show time is 10:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

For details, call the Hard Rock Café at 893-4661 to 63.

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7 THE FAMILY MAN

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3 DEMON GATE
4 CAST AWAY
5 TUSONG TWOSOME
6 102 DALMATIANS

BACOLOD (034)441-0453
1 VERTICAL LIMIT
2 CAST AWAY
3 WHAT WOMEN WANT
4 BOUNCE
5 TABI TABI PO
6 SYOTA NG BAYAN

DOLBY dts SDDS

Roselle, Ralion dance

ROSELLE Nava and Ralion Alonzo will perform in a dance concert called "The Roselle and Ralion Dance Concert" at Ratsky's in Malate on March 1 at 9:30 p.m.

The dance concert produced by Airtime Entertainment is second in a series of shows mounted by Airtime Entertainment under Baby Pacheco.

It will feature Roselle and Ralion in numbers like "She Bangs," "Let's Get Loud," "Cruisin,'" "The Thong Song," and Latin medleys popularized by Gloria Estefan and Ricky Martin

Ralion and Roselle will have the Big Men as back-up dancers. A'petit is the back-up band.

Tickets at P500 each, inclusive of two drinks, are available at Don Henrico's Tomas Morato, Banawe and Sta. Lucia East; the Center for Pop Music Philippines in Cubao, Roces, Makati, Las Piñas, Parañaque and Lagro, Airtime Entertainment at 546-7500, 825-5939, 0919-8393038 and www.ticket2me.com with contact numbers 753-3445, 1277-61605.

ALONSO

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATER: 911 3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TUHOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TUSONG 2 SOME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SNATCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	102 DALMATIANS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WAY OF THE GUN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TUHOG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	PAY IT FORWARD
MIRAMAR	ARAYY / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	WAY OF THE GUN
ODEON-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
ROBEN	TUSONG 2 SOME
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
TIMES	UNBREAKABLE / REPLACEMENT

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	TUHOG
QUEZON-1	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS

CUBAO

OCEAN SUPERAMA	TUHOG
OCEAN CINEMA-A	BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
OCEAN CINEMA-B	KATAYAN

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-78 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SNATCH

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUHOG
CINEMA-2	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-3	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WAY OF THE GUN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-12	SNATCH
CINEMA-14	DEMON GATE
CINEMA-15	TUSONG TWOSOME

LORES

CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	WOMAN ON TOP
CINEMA-2	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-3	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-4	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-5	SNATCH
CINEMA-6	102 DALMATIANS

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8:45 PM - Pay It Forward
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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Mendez backers want Tiongson out

BY ROGER V. PALLER
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Cebu Alliance for Morality in Media in the Philippines (Cammp) has asked President Macapagal to recall the appointment of Nicanor Tiongson as chair of Movie, Television Review and Classification Board.

Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer, Cammp founding chair, said Tiongson was a member of the MTRCB board during the term of Armida Siguion-Reyna as chair.

Bullecer noted that Tiongson has never registered any protest on films that were supposed to be R-18 but were classified as PG-14.

In his Feb. 23 letter to President Macapagal, Bullecer said Reyna's reign at the MTRCB caused "innumerable and irreparable moral havoc" on the people's morals.

"It is our highest desire that under your new administration, this should never happen again," he wrote.

He said his group wanted somebody "with proven integrity, uncompromising dedication and track record" to man the MTRCB's top post.

No name was mentioned in his letter to Ms Macapagal. But in an interview, Bullecer admitted that his group wanted Henrietta Mendez as MTRCB chair, a post she held when Fidel Ramos was President.

Mendez came under fire from a group of artists and directors for deleting sensitive scenes in two movies, "The Piano" and the "Bridges of Madison County."

Cammp is an umbrella organization of more than 20 pro-chastity anti-pornography groups in Cebu including the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines headed by Fr. Roderick Salazar.

MTV launch filled with music, food

MUSIC, food and fun made the night for young party animals who grooved with the Most Wanted Channel and enjoyed hearty servings of dishes courtesy of T.G.I. Friday's, Italianni's and Outback Steak-house when MTV Philippines' Rebirth Launch was held at the NBC Tent.

VJs Donita Rose, Belinda Panelo, KC Montero and Sarah Meier hosted the show that featured foreign bands Collective Soul and Plus One and the country's most popular artists and live bands.

The thousands who came to celebrate with MTV queued up for their favorite steaks, nachos, fried mozzarella, baked ziti and lasagna, served piping hot from tents set up at the garden area.

TODAY AT SM CITY MANILA

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2001

11am
STREET CHILDREN DOCUMENTARIES

1:30 pm
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at 4 PM
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at 6:30 pm
Jon Red's
STILL LIVES
PREMIERE!! An inside story in the life of crime and drugs!

at 9 pm
Ricky Orellana's
LINES OF VISION
PREMIERE!! A documentary on the National Artist, ARTURO LUZ.

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THE FAMILY MAN - P 13 10:30, 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	SNATCH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	102 DALMATIANS - G 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45

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SundayBIZ
RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ▫ MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Seal that deal, then puff a ₱2,500 Montecristo cigar to celebrate

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

POET Rudyard Kipling was once asked by his wife to choose between her and his cigar. He chose the cigar.

That is how fanatic some people can be about their cigars, making them burn money to the tune of P2,500 or more per cigar just to get the taste of spices and nuts from the finest tobacco leaves.

South American Indians surely did not envision that the rolled tobacco leaves they enjoyed would one day become a symbol of luxury and wealth around the world.

A book entitled "Up in Smoke" says the fine cigar has emerged as the millennium's new fashion accessory, as the Filofax was to the eighties and the cellular phone was to the '90s.

The local business community embraced the trend with CEOs of top corporations like Robert Sobrepeña of the Fil-Estate group, George Yang of the McDonald's franchise and Joseph Madrid of Merill Lynch lighting up.

Many young urban professionals have also turned to smoking cigars instead of the usual Marlboro or Philip Morris cigarettes to show that they have achieved a level of success.

Many would like to believe that they are in the same league as famous cigar smokers, Winston Churchill, Ernest Hemingway, Alfred Hitchcock, Albert Einstein and movie stars Michael Douglas, Samuel L. Jackson and even Madonna and Isabella Rosellini.

This explains the proliferation of cigar divans where top executives and yuppies meet to savor the taste of the finest cigars from Cuba, the Dominican Republic and the local Tabacalera line of cigars.

SundayBiz toured some of the leading cigar divans where many deals are struck amid the fragrant haze of cigar smoke and shots of single malt whiskey brought straight from Scotland.

SEAL / B6

PERSONALIZED cigar boxes carved within two hours have become popular gifts to corporate clients.

Cyber-cinema: Internet promises home delivery for movies

BERLIN—Home entertainment still often looks like this: the film you've been dying to see is unavailable at your local video store and when you finally do get it, the picture is a grainy fog with sound barely better than that of a transistor radio.

But movie watching in the near future? Almost any film ever made, from a new release to a classic or a tiny independent picture, could be at your disposal in digital quality and available for download whenever you want to watch it at an affordable price.

Movie-lovers are set to have more control than ever over what they can watch, with the Internet paving the way to an interactive screen in their homes.

In many US cities, Internet streaming, or digital video transmission, is already a reality via high-capacity, high-speed broadband networks.

But the images are often jumpy with sound delivered in fits and starts.

The present feverish pace of construction of DSL (digital subscriber line) networks in cities around the world will allow a gradual transformation of the entertainment industry, analysts say, with quality set to improve as lines are upgraded.

New medium

"The Internet marks the birth of an important new medium for our business," said Takashi Nishimura, director of New Cinema from Japan which promotes Japanese films internationally.

"It will offer viewers the ability to see whatever they want when they want it. That is the advantage—this flexibility."

In an interview at this month's Berlin film festival, Nishimura said that because Internet penetration is still relatively limited in Japan, it may take a while before video-on-demand is available to a large audience there.

But he noted that the market in South Korea, where some three million people already have broadband services via DSL, the market could take off very quickly and soon lead Asia in the field.

Meanwhile dozens of US companies are preparing to kill off classic videotape with new services that bring libraries of films to consumers' fingertips.

Last week, Universal Studios signed on with broadband network Intertainer to deliver new releases and archived films from eight major movie studios on a digital cable platform beginning this month.

The deal comes on the heels of similar plans by Miramax Films with SightSound Technologies, Sony Pictures with MovieFly, as well as Disney and Blockbuster Inc.

Download movies

Sony's plans will allow viewers to download movies from its websites for a fee, and let them copy the film onto a compact disc which they could pass on to others, who would also be required to pay for the film.

Blockbuster, the biggest name in video rentals in the United States, aims to avoid becoming a dinosaur by delivering movies to customers over high-speed phone lines with its partner, Texas energy company Enron.

Disney has said it is also looking into the use of wireless set-top boxes that could be used to pull films from the Internet.

But distribution of media over the Internet raises the specter of a Napster-like service that could allow swapping of perfect quality "bootlegged" copies of films, thus cost the big studios dearly in lost revenue.

Although US studios, which lose some $2.5 billion a year in worldwide video piracy, have succeeded through the courts at reining in Scour, the video equivalent of Napster, they are still trying to convince cable and satellite operators to work with them to discourage copying.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world is watching the US track record closely to work out where the market is likely to go.

Attention drumming

But even as the Internet begins to open new technological realities for home audiences, it is already giving smaller filmmakers the chance to drum up attention for their movies outside the traditional Hollywood publicity machine.

The hype whipped up on the Internet by the makers of the US horror film "The Blair Witch Project" even before the film appeared in cinemas made it the first cyber-cinema success story.

Films like the Star Wars prequel "The Phantom Menace," the upcoming "Lord of the Rings" and the Microsoft sendup "Antitrust" have also generated huge interest at very low cost through online teasers and dozens of chat rooms that have sprouted up among fans.

Copycats around the world have tried to match these first film marketing ventures by Internet with varying degrees of success.

The Norwegian film "Detector," a small-budget drama aimed at young adults, became a smash hit in its country thanks to a marketing blitz on the Web.

Knut Skinnarmo of the Norwegian Film Institute, part of a delegation visiting Berlin from Internet-rich Scandinavia, said online promotion was particularly useful for films with low budgets because of the sharply mounting cost of film advertising and marketing. *AFP*

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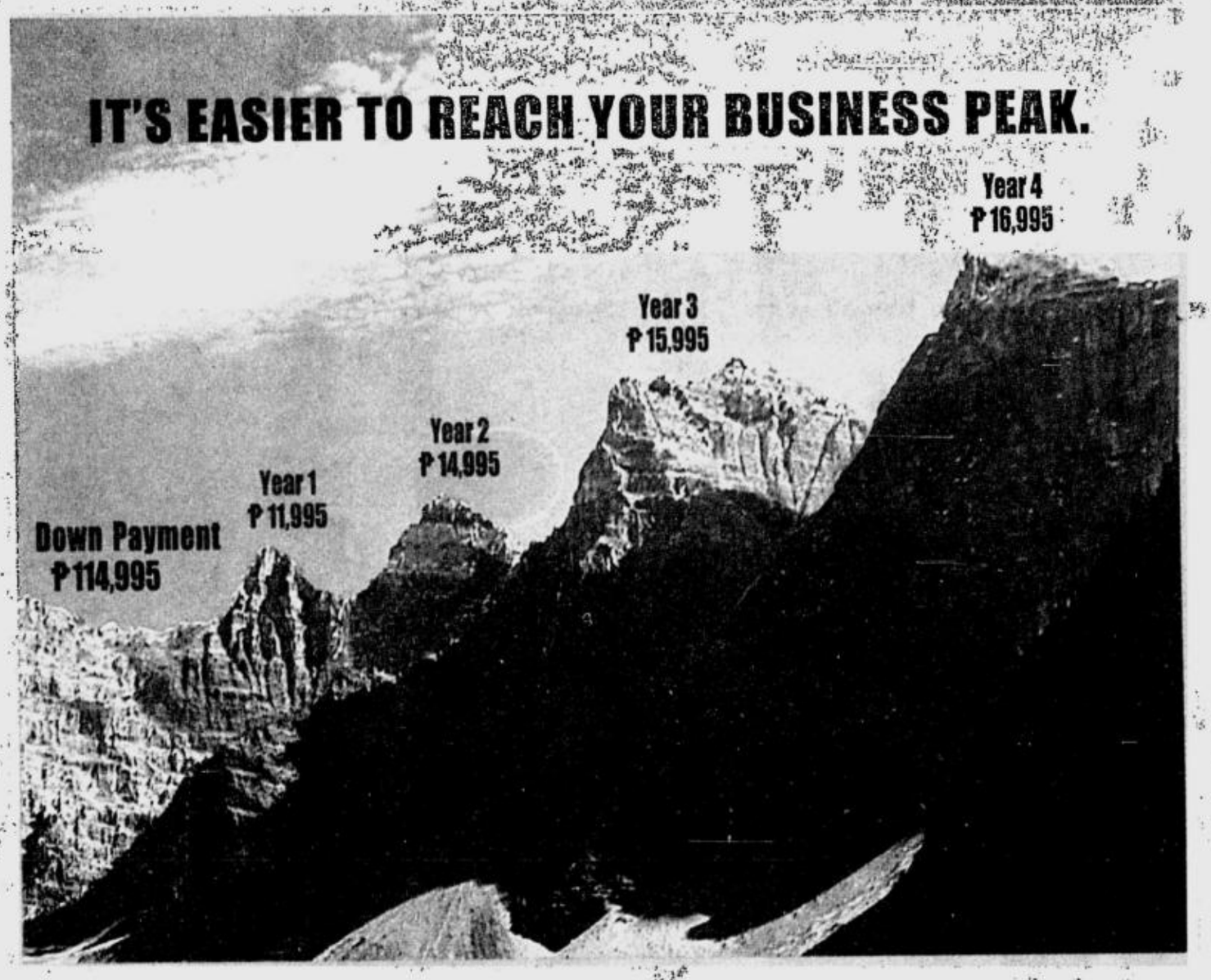

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A life of quotes and ties that bind

"The Heart of a Leader"
Ken Blanchard
Honor Books, 1999

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

MANY Christmases ago, I sent to friends and business associates a not-so-expensive gift of quotes printed on special paper and mounted on a miniature lectern. Today, when I visit their offices or homes, the gift still stands proud in a corner, still speaking of eternal truths and inspiring lines for the day.

The business world is a land mass of business language—jargon, facts, figures, charts and tables. Thus, when you stumble upon an insight expressed in an inspired line, a point with unintended lyricism, or an everyday fact elevated to timeless truth—they serve as a refreshing oasis offering sparkling water.

An inspiring line relaxes the nerves, prompts the mind to open itself to realities beyond the workaday world, and readies the soul to commune with the Divine. And when that momentary trip or long journey is over, you again descend to the "world of reality" (although Plato will disagree with you, because he will insist that we are mere shadows or copies and reality is somewhere else).

That explains why we love quotes. To use 21st century language, it's like a good cup of Starbucks or Figaro coffee perking up an otherwise humdrum existence. One of the latest additions is a package of 79 quotes from one who has earned the reputation as a motivational author and speaker—Ken Blanchard—with his book, "The Heart of a Leader."

The book deals with many themes, as many topics as our multicolored life needs—from occasional confidence at work to abiding faith; from team spirit to a profounder partnership; from simply relaxing to finding fulfillment in solitude; from the practice-makes-perfect principle to a lifelong commitment to learning; from "health is wealth" to health-is-better-than-wealth; from golf is life to "Game of Life First."

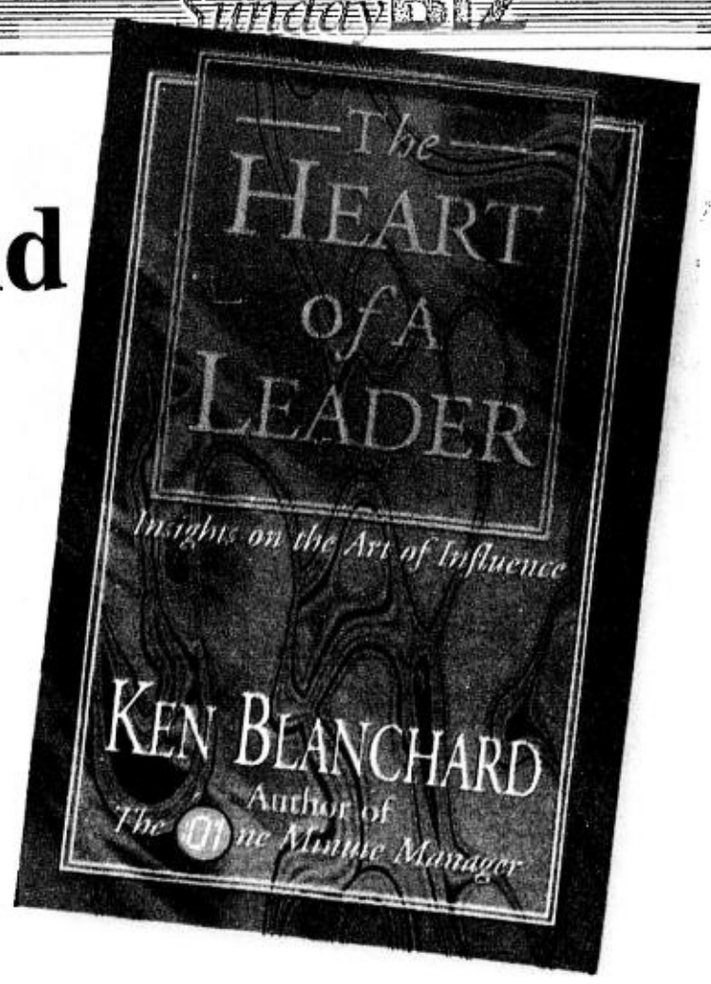
On confidence building, for example, the book offers this memorable quote: "No one can make you inferior without your permission." That comes from Eleanor Roosevelt, wife to powerful Franklin Delano Roosevelt, hinting that the spouse is no less mighty or confident.

A companion quote should come from an American president whose life has become an inspiring example of finally ending in triumph after a long litany of failures: Abraham Lincoln. This could be his article of faith and formula for success: "It's surprising how much you can accomplish if you don't care who gets the credit." This should be liberating to many of us.

On team spirit, one quote speaks of the advantage of synergy, a quick retort to "Lone Rangers" out there: "None of us is as smart as all of us," a quote from "One Minute Manager Meets the Monkey." Mind you, it's the manager talking, not the banana-eating cousin!

And here's a saying that's needed by he who does not put his money where his mouth is: "Share the cash, then share the congratulations." When your boss pats your back for bringing in millions of pesos in sales, tell him "talk is cheap."

Workaholics, they say, is modern-day phenomenon. This world is populated by driven people, moved by a timetable to become millionaires at a predetermined date, and made sicker by stress-related illnesses.



The book has valuable quotes for the driven: "Take what you do seriously but yourself lightly." This one-liner from the book "Mission Possible" will do wonders to people who just can't relax.

If that quote doesn't do it, we should compare these people with "lower life forms" with this quote from Lily Tomlin: "The trouble being in the rat race is that even if you win the race, you're still a rat." Let's be classical and quote Confucius for a change: "Choose the work you love and you will never have to work a day in your life."

But, we have to work, you say. And thus the book has some ample lines for you about striving for perfection. Nothing wrong with that, actually. "Your game is as good as your practice." Michael Jordan naturally agrees and all other champion athletes. And, if you fear losing your job, listen to this: "The only job security you have today is your commitment to continuous personal improvement." Your present employer's loss should be you prospective boss' gain.

The book views career and work as part of the entire stream of life. There is no point breaking your back or your home for success. All through this book, that intangible quality called "faith" is actually palpable. It also emphasizes openness to vast possibilities. This quote says it best: "Life is what happens to you while you're planning on doing something else," according to Beatle John Lennon.

And finally, the book has something to say about golf. To the author, G.O.L.F. means "Game of Life First." With 79 quotes, the sample quotes serve only as slices of life—aperitif, if you may. Before you know it, however, something emerges from reading the quotes and the brief explanations and anecdotes. The book, "The Heart of a Leader," is actually telling us that the heart of the matter is—the heart.

(Feedback: dantemv@i-next.net.)

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Special Assets Management Division Hotline
Note: Prices are subject to change without prior notice

Location	Lot Area	Description/ Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
ANTIPOLO, RIZAL				
Alcazar Street, Vista Verde Executive Village Phase VIII Brgy. Mayamot	252	res. vacant lot	n/a	682,000
Cor. of Washington Avenue and Tennessee Drive Palos Verdes Subd.	484	res. vacant lot	n/a	1,703,000
Crown Alley (Road Lot 3) Parkridge Est., Dela Paz	614	res. vacant lot	n/a	2,456,000
BATANGAS				
Palm Ridge Pointe Phase I Brgy. Balas, Talisay		19 res. vacant lot parcels • average area of 450 sq.m. • area above 500 sq.m.	n/a	3,200/sq.m. 3,400/sq.m.
BULACAN				
Road Lot 1242-C-6 Bo. Sta. Cruz Sta. Maria	4,600	agri. vacant lot	n/a	2,300,000
CALOOCAN CITY				
Paulicas Street, Maypajo		4 res. vacant lot parcels with an average area of 270 sq.m.		3,000/sq.m.
Lot 5 Blk. 11 Cherry Vine St. BF Homes III Subd. Deparo	246	2-storey res. bldg.	170	1,684,000
Lot 67F-B-1-C Susano Rd. Brgy. Deparo	1,000	com./res. vacant lot	n/a	5,000,000
CAVITE				
Rodeo Countryside Estate, Brgy. Esperanza, Alfonso		18 res. vacant lot parcels • average area of 1,000 sq.m. • corner lot		1,300/sq.m. 1,400/sq.m.
Sherwood Hills Golf Club Brgys. of Cabezas & Lalaine Trece Martires City	398 311 332 441	res. vacant lot parcels		2,700/sq.m. 1,600/sq.m. 1,600/sq.m. 1,600/sq.m.
LAGUNA				
Niwi Street Pacita Complex 2 Phase I Brgy. San Vicente, San Pedro	224	res. bungalow bldg.	172.53	1,059,000
Golden Swan Resort Barangay Sucol Calamba	8,661	Resort site consisting of 8 lot parcels w/ the ff: • single sty. office bldg. • single sty. resort pavilion • single sty. resort cottage bldg. • 2-sty. hotel bldg. w/ 10 rooms • single sty. resort pavilion bldg. • 2-sty. cottage bldg. consisting of 5 individual up and down units • 2-sty. resort bldg. • single-sty. resort bldg. • with perimeter fence and gate, 5 swimming pools, 2 water tanks		25,289,000
A. Mabini Ext. San Lucas I San Pablo City	436 436	contiguous res. vacant lot parcels	n/a	1,047,000 1,051,000
Southpoint Subd. Brgy. Niyugan Cabuyao	236 238 180 443	res. vacant lot parcels	n/a	1,017,000 1,110,000 828,000 2,003,000
Southpoint Subd. Brgy. Mainit Sta. Rosa		25 res. vacant lot parcels • with an average area of 200 sq.m.	n/a	4,600/sq.m.

Location	Lot Area	Description/ Improvements	Flr. Area	Price
MAKATI CITY				
Berasasin Street, Brgy. Sta. Cruz	65 54	• 2-sty. townhouse w/ mezzanine & carport • 2-sty. townhouse w/ mezzanine & carport	114 134	2,460,000 2,030,000
MANDALUYONG CITY				
No. 3 Victoria Street, Brgy. Pleasant Hills	402	res. bungalow bldg. w/ vacant concrete storage bldg. & open type shed structure	309	6,073,000
MARIKINA CITY				
No. 6 Everita Street, Everita Subd., Brgy. Calumpang	240	2-sty. res. bldg. w/ working shed & walkway	308	2,173,000
PARAÑAQUE CITY				
No. 7690 Callejaan St., F.C. Santos Compound, San Isidro	153	3 two-sty. res. bldgs.	168	1,013,000
Filipinas Ave. cor. 12th St., UPS 5, Brgy. San Isidro	647	2-sty. res. bldg. with garage & landscaping	307	6,218,500
PASIG CITY				
West Tower, PSE Center Bldg. Exchange Road, Ortigas Ctr.		com. vacant condominium unit w/ 2 parking slots	160	7,760,000
Bartville Road, Bartville Subd., Brgy. Santolan	700	2-storey res. bldg.	420	4,061,000
Unit 17B Belvedere Tower, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center		res. vacant condominium unit	108.27	9,319,000
QUEZON CITY				
No. 11 Crestline Road, Blue Ridge A Subd., Quirino Dist.	833 730.10	res. vacant lots	n/a	12,495,000 10,052,000
No. 26 Genesis Condominium, E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave.		res. vacant deck condominium unit	288.58	8,080,000
Baliuyat Drive cor. Santos St., Baliuyat Park Subd., Brgy. Bagong	585	res. vacant lot	n/a	1,462,000
Wagner Street, Ideal Subdivision, Brgy. Commonwealth, Capitol District	300	res. vacant lot	n/a	1,200,000
Road Lots 28 & 29, Villa Vienna, Neopolitan 1, Fairview	300 350	2 res. vacant "through" lot parcels	n/a	1,350,000 1,350,000
Hercules cor. Athena Sts. Tivoli Green Village, Capitol Dist.	396	2-sty. res. bldg. w/ garage	483.80	7,727,000
Fleur-de-Lis & Mariposa Sts., Neopolitan Vill., Genesis Gardens, North Fairview	600	2-sty. office/ factory bldg. w/ deck	1,076	8,953,000
No. 7 12th Street, New Manila	573 518	contiguous res. vacant lot parcels	n/a	9,341,000 8,806,000
VALENZUELA CITY				
No. 57 Guillermo Alley (Tangile Alley), Brgy. Marulas	200	single storey res. bldg.	101.18	450,000
No. 24 Dama de Noche Street, Bahayang Pag-asa Subdivision, Brgy. Marulas	180	2-sty. res. bldg. w/ garage	333	2,516,000
Makialig Mayumi and Malakas Sts., Lena Subd., Dalandanan (formerly part of Malanday)	193 180	6 contiguous res. vacant lot parcels	n/a	2,000/sq.m.
No. 1164 Dos Grande Street, Bo. Ugong	854	fully concrete ind'l. bldg.	190	3,222,000
Unnamed St. Road near Dasa Street, Brgy. Karuhatan	300	2-storey res./ ind. concrete bldg.	280.65	1,424,000

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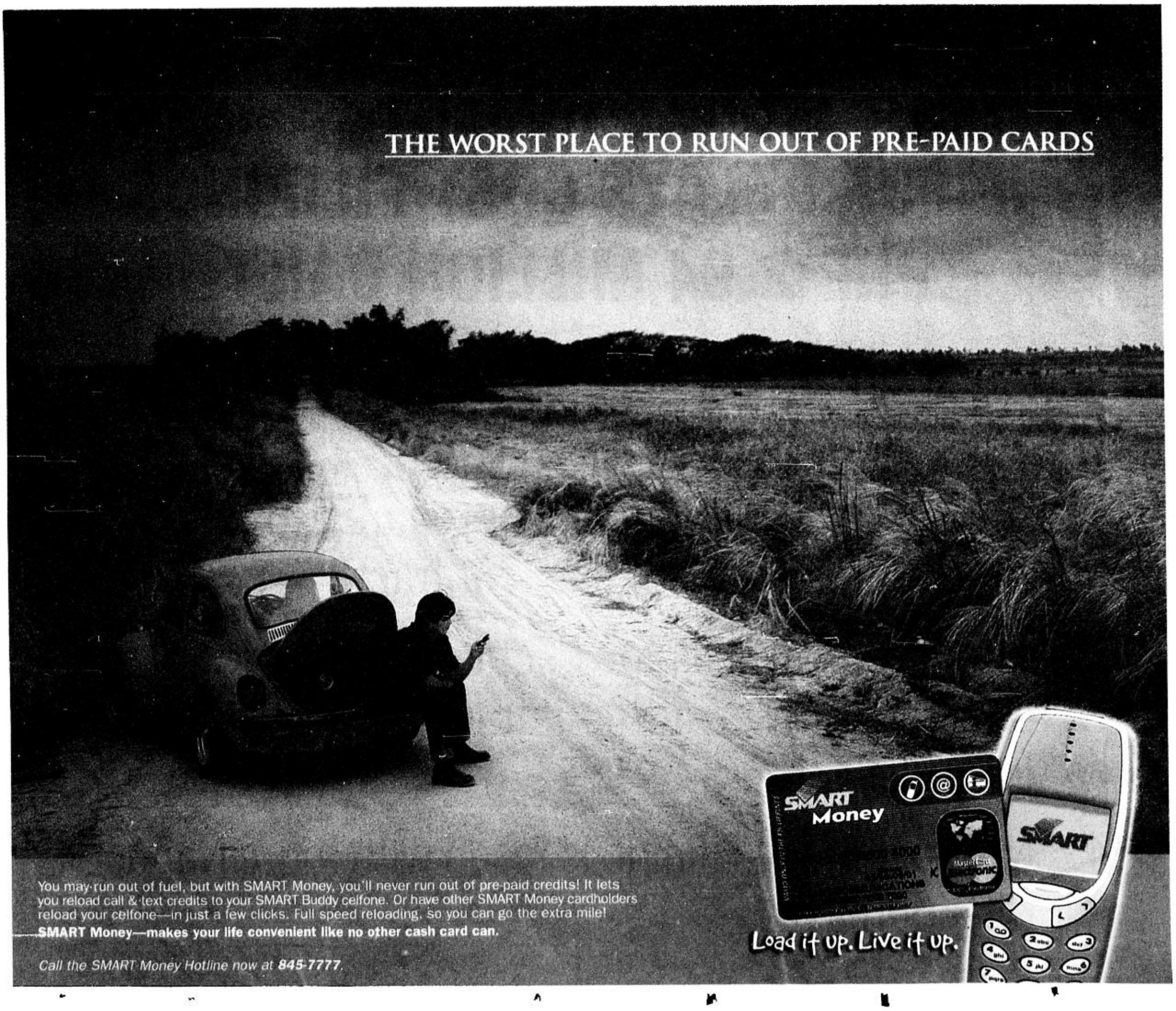
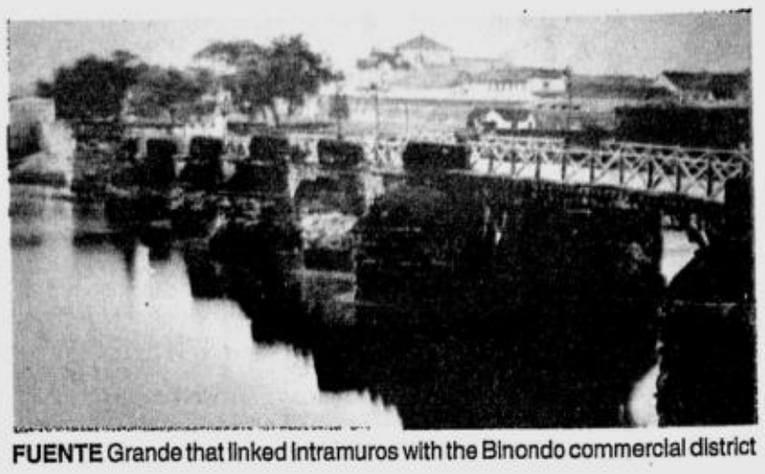


SUGAR hacienda of Florentino Hizon

THE PRIME export product during the Spanish colonial era.


FUENTE Grande that linked Intramuros with the Binondo commercial district

A TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Philippine trade in black and white

FUNDACION Santiago vice president Jose Picornell with former ambassador to Spain Juan Jose Rocha and Pedro Picornell.

INSTITUTO Cervantes director Francisco de Blas looks at the photographic prints.

FILIPINOS engaged in brisk trade and commerce even after the famous galleon trade. Unfortunately, not many Filipinos appreciate the level of commerce that our forefathers engaged in.

Fundacion Santiago, a private voluntary organization headed by entrepreneur and philanthropist Pedro Roxas, strives to raise the historical awareness of Filipinos by mounting traveling exhibits called Kalakalan en Blanco y Negro depicting trade and industry settings in the early decades of the past century.

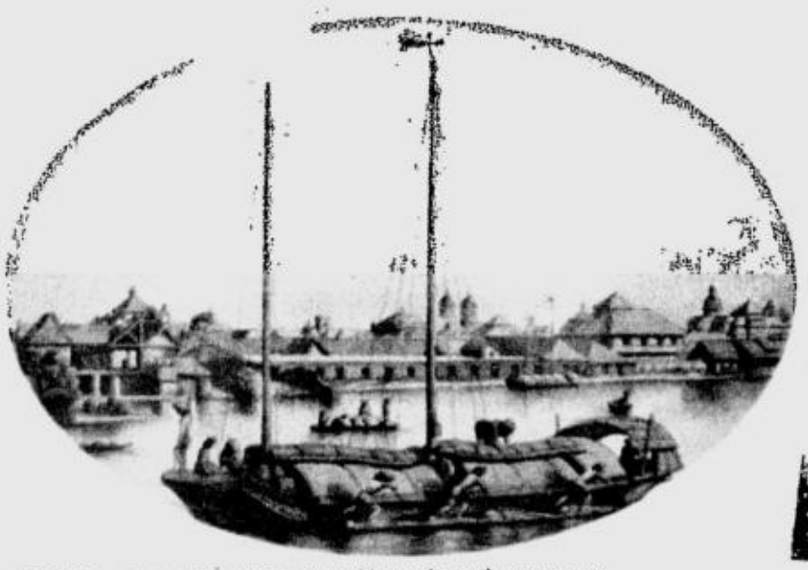
The 13 early 20th century large format prints from private and public collections were earlier exhibited at the Huatt Regency, Hong Kong; the Negros Museum, Bacolod; the University of San Carlos, Cebu; the Ateneo de Davao, Davao City; and Ateneo de Zamboanga, Zamboanga City.

The latest exhibition was at the Alcove Gallery at the Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue. The exhibit started last Feb. 6 and will end on the 28th.

Guests who came to the opening included Spanish Ambassador Javier Herrera and former Filipino ambassadors to Spain Juan Jose Rocha and Isabel Caro-Wilson.

Also present were Instituto Cervantes director Francisco de Blas; Fundacion Santiago vice president Jose Picornell, socialites Manuel Igual and Eewie Roque, civil society leaders Rory Tolentino and Danny Urquico, Makati Business Club executive director Bill Luz and Honorary Consul of Morocco in Manila, Jose O. Castro.

Kalakalan en Blanco y Negros is a joint undertaking of Fundacion Santiago and Asia Company Publishing Ltd. with the assistance of the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation.


COSEO, a large dugout boat used in trade and commerce.

EARTHENWARE cooking pots on their way to market.

PROCESSING sugar cane by wood or stone was introduced by the Chinese.

FILIPINAS weaving piña fiber.

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

CBK PROJECT

IMPSA DELAYS COST FILIPINOS PHP 2.94 MILLION DAILY

1. Are we the Filipino people prepared to accept another power hike?
2. Are we the Filipino people prepared to bleed due to the Impsa CBK behest contract?
3. Should we, the Filipino people allow Mark Jimenez and the former administration cause us more injustice?
4. No wonder the Filipino is faced with more Napocor rate increases.

ADVT.

IN YOUR FACE BY R. LEVISTE

JUST when many people thought that John Gokongwei, the patriarch of the Gokongwei group, was definitely out of the banking industry, he plans to reacquire shares in the bank that he sold some years back. Gokongwei's JG Summit Holdings Inc. emerged as one of the three companies included in the short list of possible buyers of majority control of Equitable PCI Bank. Gokongwei earlier sold his block of shares in PCIBank along with his late colleague Eugenio Lopez Jr. He also sold his shares in Far East Bank and Trust Co.

P1 million can put roofs on 10 families

BY AMY BAINBRIDGE

PHILIPPINE companies are throwing their support behind international housing developer Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc. (HFHP) to eliminate poverty housing in the country.

Citibank, Caltex Philippines, The Ayala Group and Cargill Philippines are just some of the companies that will help HFHP reach its target of building 2,000 houses in 2001 at a cost of P150 million.

With financial support from these companies, HFHP says it has enough funds to build 602 houses, each worth P120,000.

Philippine companies are not the only ones willing to support the project. In June, the Netherlands' largest construction supplier, LEG Group, will donate 75 houses to HFHP. The company will bring all its employees to the Philippines for one week to build the houses. HFHP is supported by other international organizations like Chase Manhattan and the American Chamber of Commerce.

The cost of each home varies depending on location, labor and materials. In Metro Manila, a 24-square-meter unit can be built for P120,000. In the provinces, a 30-sq.m. unit costs P85,000.

Home partners are encouraged to fully pay their interest-free mortgages within 10-15 years.

Since HFHP was established in 1988, more than 3,500 have been built. The company operates through 27 affiliates.

HFHP president and chief executive officer Erly de Guzman says families selected for housing must belong to the lower 30 percent of the economic strata. She said the families are also subject to approval from a family selection committee and from the local barangay captain and the church.

"P3,500 to around P13,000 (earnings) per month is the range of families that we are looking at," she says. "Based on what they can pay times 15 years, we can then cost the house. Then we design the house according to that figure."

Families must pledge to put in at least 400 hours of labor into the construction of their own and other families' houses to reduce labor cost.

Of the total cost per house, 70 percent goes to construction and 10 percent each goes to marketing and administration, a livelihood program and to housing in another country. Aside from donations, housing sites and money are provided by the local government, NGOs and government community-based housing programs.

HFHP was boosted in 1999 when former US President Jimmy Carter visited the Philippines to promote the program. This year, a number of special events are planned and will be chaired by notable Filipino business people.

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Load it up. Live it up.

Folks who have never smoked have no plans of lighting up but...

BY ALICE SEVILLA MENDOZA

PEOPLE who have never smoked have no plans to start lighting up, but those who have picked up the habit show no signs of quitting.

Findings from a survey show that regular smokers are highly loyal to their favorite brands, with 86 percent claiming they would never consider buying another brand on a regular basis. The survey of 1,000 males and females, aged 15 to 64, was conducted late last year by market research firm Asia Market Intelligence.

Results show that printed warnings on the dangers of smoking may be sinking in—only 29 percent of the entire sample surveyed light up regularly.

Forty-seven percent of male respondents smoke, making them the best customers of the tobacco industry, in contrast to the 13 percent of women who puff away out of habit.

One out of every four smokers is aged 15 to 24, making the Filipino youth another prime target as the worldwide tobacco industry seeks to refresh its dwindling customer base. However, it's the 25 to 39 age bracket that has the most number of smokers, with the number tapering off as they move into the 40 to 59 age range and health issues become a more prominent concern.

Majority of the smokers surveyed claim they smoke less than five sticks a day. Pack-a-day diehards are quite rare and more likely to be older, 60 to 64 years old and male. Thirty-four percent of smokers said they buy their cigarettes daily, with 94 percent buying them on their own.

When asked to specify the brand they smoked most often, both Philip Morris brands came out best. "Compared to other Asian markets, the Philippines differs in that imported brand names dominate domestic ones," observes Kurt Thompson, director of Asia Market Intelligence in Manila. "Brand loyalty is also unusually strong unlike other markets where brand promiscuity is endemic."

About 38 percent, the highest percentage among smokers surveyed, claim they have been smoking their regular brand 10 years or more. It also appears that once loyalty is instilled during the crucial 25- to 39-year-old stage, it's difficult convincing them to switch.

Forty-one percent from this age bracket, which has the most number of smokers, say they have been smoking their regular brand for at least a decade. Only 14 percent of all smoking respondents said they would consider changing to a different main regular brand in the future.

Despite their overwhelming loyalty, on occasional 41 percent still smoke brands other than their regular brand—possibly when their regular cigarettes are unavailable. Winston King Size leads the list of alternatives at 16 percent, followed by Winston again—no variety specified—at 15 percent. The ubiquitous Marlboro Filters King Size rank third at 14 percent.

A window of opportunity exists though, for these alternative brands should they seek to increase market share. Forty-two percent of respondents say that roughly three quarters of all cigarettes they smoke are their regular brand. In comparison, only 37 percent claim that all the cigarettes they smoke never vary from the regular brand to which they are accustomed.

Heightening awareness of cigarette brands is a gargantuan challenge as restrictions on advertising, sponsorship and all kinds of above- or below-the-line activities for the tobacco industry continue to grow. Somehow cigarette manufacturers manage—when asked to mention cigarette brands, roughly three out of 10 smokers said Marlboro, while 21 percent mentioned Philip Morris. Hope King Size and Winston were next at 10 percent and 9 percent, respectively.

Marlboro also appears to be the most familiar "starter" cigarette for the youth at 45 percent. This figure falls to 33 percent amongst 25- to 39-year-olds who apparently start experimenting with other brands and varieties as smoking settles into a habit.

Of this age group, 23 percent mentioned Philip Morris, 18 percent specified Marlboro Filters King Size and 11 percent said Winston as other brands they know.

When asked to mention other brands they were familiar with, 45 percent of the smoking respondents came up with Philip Morris, followed by Winston King Size at 38 percent and Marlboro Filters King Size at 36 percent.

With the recent political upheaval, people have been much more cautious in expenditure especially when major investments are concerned. Considering the relative cost of cigarettes, their ready availability and the ingrained loyalty to specific brands, Filipino smokers will continue their patronage of favorite cigarette brands—politics or no politics.

TABACALERA sells the full range of cigars led by the Don Juan Urquijo brand produced by La Flor Isabela, which has been in operation since 1881.

THE TABACALERA Cigar Divan offers a wide range of single malt whiskeys and cognac to complement the cigar.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

CIGAR aficionados toast to the ambiance of the Tabacalera divan at the Makati Shangri-La.

Seal that deal, then puff a ₱2,500 Montecristo cigar to celebrate

(From page B1)

Tabacalera Cigar Divan,

Makati Shangri-la

THE TABACALERA cigar divan prides itself in introducing locally produced cigars by La Flor de Isabela to the expatriate community. While other cigar divans push imported cigars from Cuba, it prominently displays La Flor cigars that range from the Tabacalera, 1881, Alhambra, Calixto Lopez and the top of the line Don Juan Urquijo line.

Lulu I. Martinez, La Flor domestic sales manager, says hotel guests, businessmen, and expatriates who want to try locally produced cigars frequent the divan which is busy after office hours and after dinner.

Cigar aficionados enjoy the soft and deep leather chairs brought from England and the subdued atmosphere conducive to relaxation and quiet conversation. Frequent guests also have the option to get a private locker in the divan's humidor to keep their cigars fresh.

Martinez says cigar sales picked up over the past few months as more businessmen and moneyed clientele discover the pleasure of smoking cigars.

"Anybody who wants to be "in" are smoking cigars. We notice that more young people are smoking cigars these days and also some women. This is one reason why sales continued despite the crises that affected the economy since we opened in late 1996," Martinez explains.

The La Flor cigars come in different sizes from panatelas (120 mm. long) to the double coronas (216 mm.) Flavors range from light to full with the aroma described as floral or spicy.

There are also flavored cigars that novices try before graduating to the more full bodied cigars.

Martinez says sales to corporate clients have also picked up as expatriates bring out La Flor cigars as presents to colleagues in their home country. The Tabacalera cigar divan also provides a service where clients can get a personalized cigar case with the names engraved in just two hours.

Cigar divans naturally attract society's upper crust as the cigars do not come cheap. Prices range from a minimum of P126 to P300 per piece for the local cigars. The most expensive cigars are the Pyramids which sell at P6,856 for a pack of 25 cigars.

Smokers usually pair the cigars with a shot of cognac—Remy Martin and Hennessy—brandy or the increasingly popular single malt whiskys.

"We also sell some Cuban cigars but we believe that the La Flor cigars can pass for a fine Cuban cigar and our clients agree," Martinez says.

KIPLING'S manager Barbara Cumagun shows the Montecristo cigar that sells for P2,500 each.

PERSONAL lockers where the quality of cigars is preserved can be provided to frequent guests

CEOs of top corporations and expatriates consider Kipling's as their "comfort zone," allowing them to smoke their cigars in peace.

THE SINGLE malt whiskey collection of the Mandarin's cigar divan is said to be the biggest in Asia.

PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

Kipling's

Mandarin Oriental, Manila

KIPLING'S manager Barbara Cumagun warns that Kipling's is for serious smokers. There is not much choice for those just trying out as Kipling's caters to hard core cigar aficionados that include the CEOs of the country's top corporations. No mild, flavored cigars here.

From the time it opened in November 1999, it has developed a regular group of businessmen, stockbrokers and CEOs who have a choice between the bar and the tables to conduct negotiations or close deals.

Cumagun says the furniture were carefully chosen to ensure maximum comfort, saying that seats have to be comfortable since it takes some time to finish one cigar.

The wide range of cigars from the local cigars produced by La Flor Isabela to the expensive Montecristo cigars produced by the cigar capital in Cuba are stored in a large humidor that keeps the flavor of the cigars.

Cumagun says the most popular cigars are the Montecristo, Cohibas and Boulevard cigars all produced in Cuba, although many expatriates and local, businessmen also patronize the local 1881 and Don Juan Urquijo cigars.

The most expensive Montecristo cigar sells for P2,500 a stick but Cumagun says a client can already have a good cigar at only P150.

Aside from the wide range of cigars, Kipling's is a favorite of many cigar aficionados due to the range of single malt whiskeys. Cumagun, who hails from Scotland, says Kipling's probably has the widest selection of malts in Asia.

"We have 125 different kinds of malts and our guests are willing to try one every time. We tell them which cigars will go well with the scotch that they choose," Cumagun says.

THE LOUNGE with sofas and wing chairs evokes the feel of Europe's smoking club rooms

A POPULAR feature of the Churchill's divan is the walk in humidor where temperature is kept at 16 degrees Celsius.

CHURCHILL'S offers guests the widest selection of wines from Petrous to port wines among the cigar divans in the city.

Churchill's Cigars & Wine

Edsa Shangri-La Plaza

IF OTHER cigar divans cater to the older cigar lovers, Churchill's in Ortigas is popular with the young crowd. The market may not be growing, according to Churchill's manager Eddie Ching, but at least the market is loyal.

"It is an acquired taste. You really need to dedicate time to know what it is like to enjoy cigars so we have people who come here a lot because they want to savor cigars. They want to make the most out of it because the cigars are quite expensive," Ching explains.

Named after famous cigar smoker, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, it sells three product lines—cigars, wine and single malt whiskeys.

The premium cigars range from Cuban to South American, and local cigars. A unique feature is the walk-in humidor and individual personalized lockers that are climate controlled at temperatures of 18 degrees Celsius.

The wine cellar, on the other hand, houses vintage wines, from the expensive French Bordeaux and Burgundy Gran Crus that cost at least P15,000 per bottle to the more affordable Italian Chianti, Australian Shiraz and port wines.

"Single malt whiskeys are also becoming more popular now. Before it used to be brandy that went with cigars, now it turned to scotch," Ching says.

Guests can enjoy their wine and cigar at the roomy lounge with big leather sofas and wing chairs. Churchill's has narra hardwood flooring, wooden wall paneling, granite bar counter and soft-toned furniture.

"It is a trend now that more people are trying cigars. Our clients include Chinese businessmen and executives in the Ortigas area," Ching says.

Tabac

Manila Peninsula

THE SMALL but comfortable Tabac cigar divan is a frequent hangout of stock brokers from the nearby Makati stock exchange floor. They usually come in during cocktail hours and then come back after dinner for that last cigar before going home.

Tabac owned by Katrina Panlilio sells mostly Cuban and Dominican Republic cigars. Bestsellers include the Cohiba Siglo Juan that goes for P565 each and some Montecristo cigars that sells for P400 to P840 per piece.

These are usually paired with the 12-year-old Macallan scotch whisky, Oban (14 years old) and Dalwhinnie (20 years).

"More people are smoking cigars these days because they feel that it means that they are successful. Many of our guests come from the hotels and are mostly foreigners. We don't get too many females here," says Tabac's Juliet Carlos.

The Tabac divan seats only about six but Carlos says many of the clients prefer to just buy their cigars and smoke them elsewhere. Others, on the other hand, keep their cigars ready in the private lockers.

Aside from the single malts and imported cigars, Tabac also sells a wide range of cigarettes for those who are not yet ready to try cigars as well as pipes and piped tobacco. They come in to smoke with either whiskey or good old coffee.

"Sales have picked up since the start of the year since our sales to restaurants and other hotels have grown," Carlos says.

SINGLE malt whiskeys from different regions in Scotland like The Macallan are popular with cigar lovers.

TABAC, owned by Katrina Panlilio, distributes the popular Cohiba line of Cuban cigars to restaurants and other hotels.

THE MANILA Peninsula cigar divan says it has one of the biggest distributors of Cuban cigars like the Bolivar.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

Serving three markets under a single roof

BY REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC

SHOES are like punctuation marks. They do to clothes exactly what an exclamation mark does to a sentence. They conclude a man's look just as a period tells the reader nothing more is to be expected. When you look at a man, you do so from head to toe, your final gaze lingering more on the toe, and it's the shoes that help you judge whether the person is a bingo or a blah, a winner or a whacko. The shoe completes the package; the shoe gives the final score.

So the shoe complements the man, and smart indeed is the man who knows the kind of shoes that will get him to where he is supposed to go—up and ahead.

A new brand has just entered the Philippine market. Nunn Bush, a retail brand that started in 1912 in the United States and is now available in 80 countries all over the world, is now in the country.

The distributor for the Philippines is a sports/leisure company called Pacsports. There are currently three Nunn Bush concept stores in the country—Alabang Town Center, Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, and Robinson's Ermita. This month, the SM Megamall Department Store started retailing the Nunn Bush line.

All under one house

What's so exciting about Nunn Bush store is that it showcases under one roof three distinct brands that belong to the Nunn Bush family—Brass Boot, Nunn Bush NXXT, and Stacy Adams Outdoors (SAO).

Nick Tuason, the general manager of Pacsports, says that this collection of men's footwear is for the man who accepts no compromises. "Customers who visit our store will learn that the Nunn Bush store caters to the whole demographic, and there is for sure a style that will perfectly fit your personality, lifestyle, as well as your budget," answers Tuason.

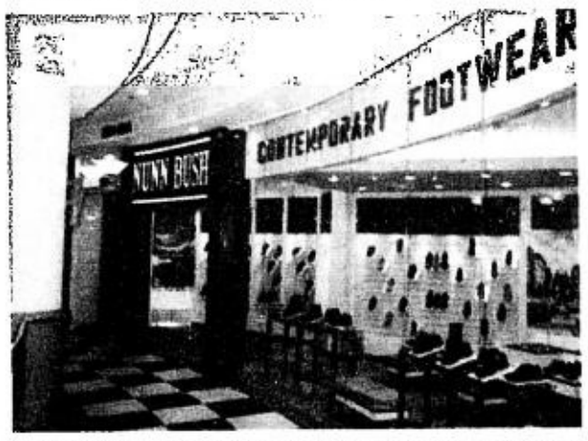
Brass Boot footwear, the fanciest of the three brands, is handmade in Italy or Spain using only the finest leathers. There are numerous styles that fit either the "cutting-edge" yuppie or the conservative customer. Its perfect for those who call the shots, those guys who go to clubs, and those who are big players in the corporate world. Tuason admits being drawn to the Brass Boot brand from first noticing their presence in magazines such as GQ and also seeing the brand in popular stores in the United States such as Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord and Taylor and Dillards.

As for Nunn Bush, Pacsports has chosen to focus on the NXXT line for the Philippines. Tuason explains that "this isn't the same 'tassels and loafers' line that your father and grandfather remember. We chose to focus on the Nunn Bush NXXT because it offers today's cutting-edge fashion and at prices that even working students can afford. The styles are definitely for guys who are comfortable in khakis, jeans, and that casual-Friday look."

Stacy Adams Outdoors (SAO) is very popular with American teenagers and "hip-hoppers" as you may call them. Gracing the prime pages of urban periodicals such as the Vibe, and Slam magazine, SAO is for young men who want to look cool, stylish, and yet be different.

Set it up now

Nunn Bush came into the market at a time when most businessmen were keeping their cards close to their chest. Everybody was taking a wait-and-see attitude and very few wanted to make risks. Pacsports, however, decided that they had better set up the venture even when the climate was not so promising. "Before we came in, we thoroughly researched the market and realized that the men's market needed a fresh product. We brought in a shoe brand that offers three distinct styles, Brass Boot, NXXT and SAO that will fit nicely with the Filipino male not only because of the fashion, but also because of the aggressive pricing. When you visit our Nunn Bush store, you will find that the majority of the SAO and NXXT styles retail under P2,990. The handsome, handmade Italian and Spanish Brass Boot shoes are attractively priced under P5,900. We try to keep the price comparable or even below the prices found in the US to make the brands more valuable here," states Tuason.



THE FIRM comes into the country while most businesses are keeping their money in their pockets.

Artificial flower making: Opportunities to earn during tough times

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

FLOWERS brighten up any home or office and are essential decorations for any event. These are used for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and funerals. Unfortunately, not everyone can afford to festoon their homes and offices with fresh flowers, as most of these are brought in from abroad.

A cheaper alternative is to purchase artificial flowers made of paper, fabric and silk for top-of-the-line products. With enough skill and experience, artificial flowers even look better than real flowers and sometimes people find it difficult to tell them apart.

HOW TO

Some buyers even prefer artificial flowers since these don't wilt and can stand out in a room all year long. There is growing demand for these artificial flowers as evidenced by the proliferation of stores in malls that sell artificial flower arrangements.

The NegoSkwela Livelihood and Technology Training Center says this demand presents another opportunity for housewives and even employees with some spare time to earn extra money in these difficult times.

NegoSkwela resource speaker Melinda Quiogue says in an interview that artificial flower making requires considerable time and is labor intensive because of the long process from cutting the fabric to dyeing and to putting the cut pieces together to create a flower.

The 100-percent profit margin, however, should be enough to cover for the extra work.

Quiogue says artificial flower making does not require too many special materials. What is important is to acquire a flower iron which is used to iron in the grooves and veins of the leaves and flowers to make them as natural looking as possible.

Other materials are easily found such as cornstarch, paintbrush, white glue, cardboard, wooden laddle or spoon and a wide table to lay out the fabric.

The first step is to trace the pattern of the petals and leaves on either the paper, fabric or silk.

JOHNNY VILLENA

THE NEGOSKWELA Livelihood and Technology Training Center shows how to make the house decors that have been highly in demand.

'With enough skill and experience, artificial flowers even look better than real ones'

It is important to iron the materials to remove the wrinkles that may appear when the fabric is hardened using cornstarch.

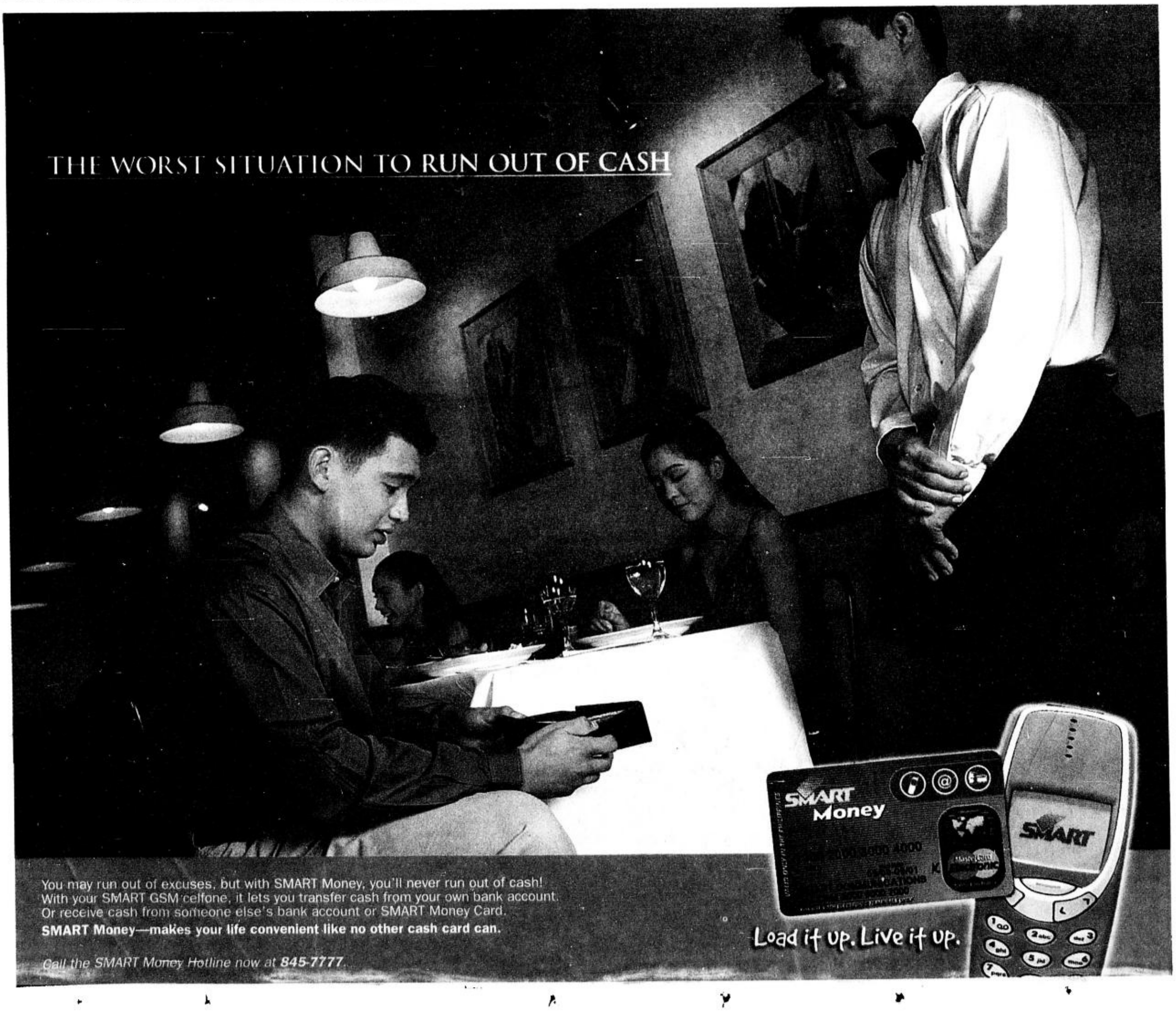
The pattern can be copied from real flowers to get the right size and shape. Once stiffened, the individual petals will then be attached to other petals to make the flower. The leaves are then attached together with the stem made out of wire. These are wrapped using flower tape.

The easier flowers to be executed by hobbyists and entrepreneurs just starting out are those with big petals such as Anthurium, Calla Lily, Easter Lily and the iceland poppy. Beginners can also start experimenting with making roses.

Budding entrepreneurs can even provide added services such as flower arrangements to earn even more income out of their flowers.

Quiogue says artificial flower making is ideal for people who have a lot of time on their hands. These are easily sold, she says, due to the numerous commercial applications including neighbors who want accent pieces for their homes.

"People who want to go into business must make sure that their work is neat and as natural looking as they can so that they can easily sell their products," Quiogue says.



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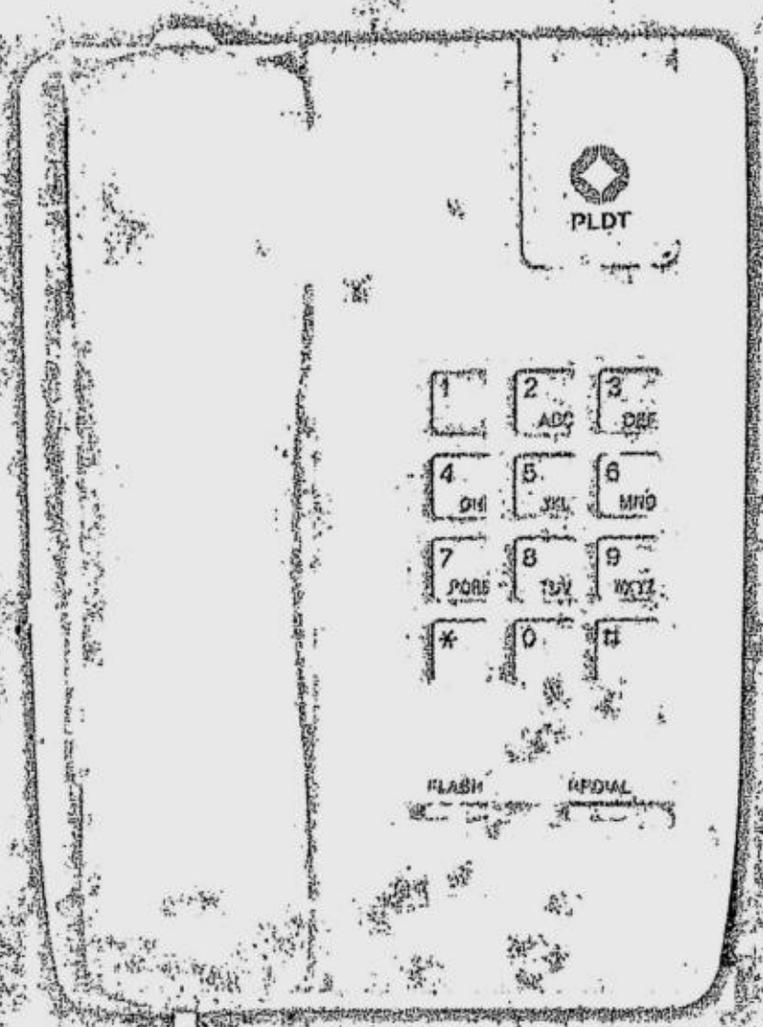

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- *Willing to relocate in Cebu*
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- *Responsible for Leading the software development team. Min. 3-5 years experience in Embedded Software Design and Dev.*
- *Must be an expert in Assembly or Embedded C Programming process*
- *Has worked with Motorola, NEC, PIC or any Microcontroller system*
- *Has implemented source and track integrity software in the S/W dev. process is an advantage*
- *Firmware knowledge is a plus*
- *Supervisory experienced is preferred*

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CODE SE
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• 10 a.m. Canada • 11 a.m. Australia / New Zealand
• 12 p.m. Caregiver • 1 p.m. USA
Venue: THE PHIL. TRADE TRAINING CENTER, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Pasay City
Contact Person: INS MIS
Tel. Nos. 891-5686 to 89 / 891-5920 to 21
Fees: P700 Prepaid (per country) or P900 Walk-in (per country)

DAGUPAN CITY
Date: February 28, 2001 (Wednesday) 3:00 p.m.
Venue: STAR PLAZA HOTEL, AB Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City
Contact Person: INS MIS @ Dagupan Office, @ 2F Cancela Bldg., M.H. Del Pilar St., Dagupan City
Tel. Nos. (075)522 7628; 515-4973; 515-5726; (0918)510-2094
Fees: P700 Prepaid or P1,000 Walk-in

ZAMBOANGA CITY
Date: March 3, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue: GRAND ASTORIA HOTEL, Mayor Jaldon St., Zamboanga City
Contact Person: Darling Baltazar
Tel. Nos. (062) 991 2510; 991 2518; (0918) 241-0528
Fees: P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

BULACAN
Date: March 10, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue: EMMANUEL PAVILION, Sampaloc San Rafael, Bulacan
Contact Person: Michael Garcia
Tel. Nos. (0918) 584 1821 / (0917) 829-6321 / (044) 673 1265 / (0289) 5038 / 891 5634 / 891-5624
Fees: P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

VIGAN
Date: March 10, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue: CORDILLERA INN, Mena Crisologo cor. Gen. Luna Sts. Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Contact Person: Rose Reclusado
Tel. Nos.: (077) 722-2727
Fees: P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

ILIGAN CITY
Date: March 10, 2001 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.
Venue: MARIA CRISTINA HOTEL, Mabini-Aguinaldo Sts., Iligan City
Contact Person: Susan Agustin
Tel. Nos.: (063) 221-4677
Fees: P650 Prepaid or P850 Walk-in

GENERAL SANTOS CITY
Date: March 17, 2001 (Saturday) 10:00 a.m.
Venue: SYDNEY HOTEL, cor. Pioneer & Pendatun Ave., General Santos City
Contact Person: Aileen Wong Wee
Tel. Nos. (083) 552 5479 to 81 or 552-3880 or (0917) 438 2487
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3. **Accountant** - female, CPA at least 1 year experienced.

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Qualifications:
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- Minimum experience of 1 year

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IMMIGRATION SEMINAR DETAILS

DAGUPAN SEMINAR (4 in 1) Date: February 28, 2001 (Wednesday) Time: 03:00 p.m. Venue: Star Plaza Hotel, AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City	Fee: P 700 pre-paid, P 1,000 walk-in Tel: (075) 515-4973, 522-7829, 515-5728, (0918) 910-2994
MANILA SEMINAR (Australia & New Zealand only) Date: March 03, 2001 (Saturday) Time: 11:00 a.m. Venue: Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) Sen. Hil Puyat Avenue, Pasay City	Fee: P 700 pre-paid, P 900 walk-in Tel: 891-5924, 891-5624, 891-5636, (0917) 466-0097

Assessment will be conducted by our
AUSTRALIAN / NEW ZEALAND IMMIGRATION SPECIALIST
MR. MARK F. RILEY
Senior Migration Officer of the Australian Embassy in Manila
14 years in Australian Migration Practice

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL OR VISIT US @
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Room 402-B Vicente Madrigal Bldg., 6793 Ayala Ave., Makati City Tel. Nos.: 891-5624 / 891-5924 / Fax: 891-5664
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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of the proposed permanent transfer of the quota of R. Pena & Company, Inc to the following firms:

Name	Category	Quantity (dz)
Maxglory Apparel Inc.	347/8	2,000
Golden Will Fashions Phils., Inc.	647/8	2,333
Golden Will Fashions Phils., Inc.	3/642	513

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  - ☐ Nutrition
- ☐ Basic Medical Sciences
- ☐ Clinical Audiology
- ☐ Health Professions Education
- ☐ Hospital Administration
- Management
  - ☐ Business
  - ☐ Public
- ☐ Occupational Health
- ☐ Orthopaedics
- Nursing
  - ☐ Adult Health Nursing
  - ☐ Community Health Nursing
  - ☐ Maternal-Child Nursing
  - ☐ Nursing Service Administration
  - ☐ Psychiatric Nursing
  - ☐ School Health Nursing
- ☐ Biochemistry
- Clinical Medicine
  - ☐ Child Health
  - ☐ Family Medicine
  - ☐ Obstetrics-Gynecology
  - ☐ Surgery
- ☐ Epidemiology (Public Health)
- ☐ Hospital Pharmacy
- ☐ Industrial Pharmacy

Certificate/Basic Course Programs
- ☐ Biochemistry
- ☐ Health Professions Education
- ☐ Hospital Administration

Doctoral Programs
- ☐ Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry
- ☐ MD-PhD (Molecular Medicine)
- ☐ Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing

Masters Programs
- Public Health
  - ☐ Biostatistics
  - ☐ Epidemiology
  - ☐ Health Promotion Education
  - ☐ Medical Microbiology
  - ☐ Medical Parasitology
  - ☐ Nutrition
- ☐ Rehabilitation Science
- ☐ Rehabilitation Science (Speech Pathology)

Master of Arts Programs
- Health Policy Studies
- ☐ Health Social Science
- ☐ Health Sciences

Master of Science Programs
- ☐ Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- ☐ Pharmacology and Toxicology
- ☐ Pharmacy
- ☐ Physiology
- Public Health
  - ☐ Biostatistics
  - ☐ Environmental Health
  - ☐ Medical Microbiology
  - ☐ Medical Parasitology
  - ☐ Nutrition

Diploma Program
- ☐ Clinical Medicine

Applicants should have good scholastic record from any recognized institution of higher learning, at least 1 year of work experience in the related field, and duly accomplish the application form together with the following: original copy of TOR, 2 letters of reference (forms provided), receipt of payment, certified true copy of college diploma, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and 4 passport-size photos. Deadline for application is on **March 30, 2001.** For details, please visit our website at www.upm.edu.ph/gradschl/ or call us at 523-1495/98. We are located at the 3rd floor, UP Manila Main Building (Old NEDA), Faura corner Orosa St., Ermita, Manila.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Telephone No: 743-83-01 to 23

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Philippines
Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project
Loan No. 3852-PH

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Phase III of the DOH Local Area Network Supporting the Logistics Management Information System
IFB No. WB-3852-PH(2)

1. The Department of Health has received a loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development** toward the cost of the Women's Health and Safe Motherhood Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payments under the agreement resulting from this Invitation for Bids.
2. The Department of Health now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Phase III of the DOH Local Area Network Supporting the Logistics Management Information System, which comprises of two lots as follows:

   Lot 1:
   (a) Interconnection of 12 buildings at the San Lazaro Compound to the DOH-LAN;
   (b) Supply, delivery, installation and documentation of fiber optic backbone cabling and UTP in-house cabling;
   (c) Supply, delivery, and configuration of three (3) File Servers and Network Management Software;
   (d) Integration of existing DOH-LAN with Lot 1; and
   (e) Training of some DOH personnel on the operation, configuration and administration of the system.

   Lot 2: Includes the supply, delivery, installation, configuration and documentation of the following:
   (a) 14 units personal computers to be used as workstations;
   (b) 4 units Notebook Computers
   (c) 14 units Uninterruptible Power Supply, 600 VA
   (d) 3 units Uninterruptible Power Supply, 5 KV A
   (e) 14 units laser printers
   (f) 1 set MS SQL Server
   (g) 1 set Anti-virus Enterprise Solution
   (h) 1 set Network Security Solution
   (i) 1 set Proxy Server
3. Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines which meet the following minimum qualification criteria:

   (a) Experience and track record on similar contracts:
   (i) For Lot 1 — During the last three (3) years, the Bidder must have completed a contract involving the supply, delivery, installation and provision of technical support for Information System of similar functional, technical characteristics and of a comparable scale, including cost, as with the requirements of Lot 1.
   (ii) For Lot 2 — Must have been in operation for the last two years, with line of business primarily in the supply and delivery of computers, software, related equipment and peripherals including provision of related technical services, of similar functional technical characteristics and.of comparable scale as with the requirements of Lot 2.

   (b) Financial position:
   (i) Must have an average current assets to current liabilities ratio of at least 1:1 over the last three years;
   (ii) Must have been generating a gross sales volume of not less than three (3) times the bid or combination of bids under consideration for award; and
   (iii) The Bidder should demonstrate that it has access to or has available liquid assets and lines of credit sufficient to meet the cash flow requirement of a bid or combination of bids under consideration for award, net of bidders commitments to other projects or contracts.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

   Procurement and Logistics Service
   Building No. 26 San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
   Tel. No. (632) 711-6831
   Telefax No. (632) 711-6712
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased starting **February 19** until **March 30, 2001** from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five thousand Pesos (P5,000) or US$250 including air courier for foreign bidders. The method of payment will be cash or bank draft. Information including names of potential Bidders and contact persons telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address above at or before 10:00 a.m. on **4 April 2001.** All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than two and a half (2.5) percent of the amount of bid. Any bid received by the Purchaser after the bid submission deadline will be rejected and returned unopened to the Bidder.
7. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the following address at 10:00 a.m. on **20 March 2001.**

   DOH Convention Hall
   San Lazaro Compound
   Sta. Cruz, Manila
   Philippines
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address at 10:00 a.m. on **4 April 2001.**
9. The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder, and (ii) that violations are considered fraud which is, among other remedies, punishable by potential blacklisting from participation in future World Bank-financed procurement.

(Sgd.) **DR. ANTONIO S. LOPEZ, MD, MPH**
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI--Feb. 17, 18 & 25, 2001)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority

PEZA

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)** invites interested authorized Philippine distributors to pre-qualify and eventually to bid, if qualified, for the supply and delivery of seven (7) units of Brand New Factory-Assembled/ Packaged, Diesel Electric Generator Sets for the Cavite Economic Zone (CEZ).

The generators must have a 60 KW (75 KVA) Stand-by power output at 1800 r.p.m.; 3-phase, steel frame and anti-vibration mounting pads; electric starting system with heavy duty lead acid type batteries; with 8 hours or more fuel tank capacity; automatic shutdown protection system and control monitoring devices; including other accessories, manuals, and training of personnel.

Tender documents may be secured from February 23-March 6, 2001 upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) from the PBAC Secretariat c/o Linda Cruz or Pauline Soliman at the 3/F Almeda Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis Sts., Pasay City.

Pre-qualification requirements must be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat not later than March 8, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

PEZA reserves the right to reject any application or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset the expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be most advantageous to PEZA.

The Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Feb. 23, 25 & March 3, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
PORT OF MANILA
Customs District II-A
South Harbor, Manila

February 23, 2001

NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 and 2607 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, and in view of the fact that the hereunder listed articles are liable to perish, will be wasted or will depreciate greatly in value, there will be a "PUBLIC AUCTION SALE" (Sealed Biddings) on **February 27 (Tuesday-Special Sale), March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2001** at 1:30 PM at the Office of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila.

"Sugar, Chinese Cooking Wine, Textile Materials, Towels, Ajax CBBY Laundry Press Machine, Rubber Shoes, Quadplex/Triplex Duct Plug, Used Motor Vehicles/Buses, Dental/Medical Equipment, Used Fishing Boat, Used Motorcycles/Scooters, Used Separator, Washroom Cleaner, Glass Bottle, Tools and Equipment for Drilling Rig Type SPJ-300, Surplus items, RB Beverages Creamer, and some other interesting items."

CASH BOND REQUIRED: P10,000.00

For particulars, please see or contact the Chief, Atty. REYNALDO P. AVELINO of Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, Room No. 304, Customhouse Bldg., South Harbor, Port Area, Manila, Tel. No. 527-80-51 Local 437.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. REYNALDO S. NICOLAS**
District Collector
Port of Manila

IMPORTANT:

Pursuant to Customs Administrative Order No. 3-94, approved on **March 18, 1994**, as implemented by CMO No. 12-94 dated **April 7, 1994**, a Registration Fee of One Thousand (P1,000.00) Pesos is required to be eligible to participate in the auction sale.

(PDI – Feb. 25, 2001)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4/F Presidential Management Staff Building, Arlegui St., San Miguel, Manila
Telephone Nos. +632 7342102; +632 7335488 +632 7335448
Telefax Nos. +632 7342217; +632 7342218

ANNOUNCEMENT/INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND PREQUALIFY

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE DATABASE ON INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION FROM POINT SOURCES (DIPPS), A COMPONENT OF THE DANIDA-ASSISTANCE TO THE PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) hereby announces and invites interested firms to submit their expression of interest and to prequalify to the subject consulting services which will be jointly implemented in the PRRC-PMO, EMB, LLDA and DENR-CO and DENR-NCR.

The scope of work of the required consulting services will include the review and refinement of database system design, development of MS Access application programs for converting existing databases to DIPPS, data entry and encoding and common user interface for permit processing and training of encoders, users and systems administrators and programmers, among others. A more detailed scope of work will be defined in the project's Term of Reference. The consultant must have extensive hands-on experience in database management systems (DBMS) programming using Microsoft Access and Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), database systems design and development and conducting trainings on database applications programming. Interested firms may secure prequalification forms at the following address:

The Chairperson
Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee
Project Management Office, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4th Floor, Presidential Management Staff Building
Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Malacañang, Manila

PRRC will shortlist the consulting firms on the basis of expressions of interest and prequalification statements submitted not later than 12 March 2001.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Chairperson, PBAC

(PDI--Feb.24 & 25, 2001)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District III
NAIA

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE
Regular & Special
(February 2001)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines as amended, in relation to the provisions Customs Administrative Order No. 5-90 dated July 17, 1990, there will be Auction Sales through **SEALED BIDDING/AS IS, WHERE IS BASIS** at the Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, NAIA Customhouse, 4th floor BOC Building, MIA Road, Pasay City, to wit:

1. **Regular AUCTION SALE on February 28, 2001** at two o'clock in the afternoon of the herein described articles:

   Assorted Carpets; Assorted Jewelry and Wristwatches; Assorted Used Cellphones; Compact Discs/VHS Tapes; Pearl Beads; Assorted Brass Vases; and Aircon Blower; Main rotor blade for Hellcopter.
2. Viewing of jewelry and wristwatches will be on **February 26 & 27, 2001** at the Collection Division, 2nd floor Customs Building, MIA Rd., Pasay City.

   For particulars, please contact the office of the Chief, ACDD with Telephone No. 854-31-01 or 8771-109 loc. 4150.

February 22, 2001

CELSO P. TEMPLO
District Collector

(PDI – Feb. 25, 2001)

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Message of Thanks

BONIFACIA BUENAVENTURA SANTIAGO

of Aroma Beach Resort, Naic, Cavite
Aroma Tagaytay

passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 14, 2001
at the age of 81.

Her loving children **Andres** and **Fely**, **Edna** and **Angel Ongaco**, **Agnes** and **Ely Rodis**, **Sonny** and **Maricel**, grandchildren and great grandchildren wish to convey their deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who selflessly helped and kept vigil, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, donations, attended the funeral rites and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

CRISTEO P. AQUINO, SR.

Papal Awardee
Noble Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvester
Past Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 23, 2001
at the age of 88.

His bereaved wife **Elisea Banzon**; children **Manuel** and **Pacita Gugol**, **Cristeo Jr.** (deceased) and **Remedios Montaos**, **Adelita** and **Procopio Vergel de Dios Jr.**, **Carlos** and **Fe Edita Sto. Domingo**, and **Jorge**; sister **Amparo Fajardo**; brother **Enrique Fajardo**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Mortuary (Twin Hearts), Bulletin Street, West Triangle Homes, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish.

I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

ROSARIO OBIAS VDA. DE SERRANO

who joined her Creator on January 18, 2001

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses, prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

"She lighted our path... Leading us to a life of love...
Guiding us to believe and have faith.
Living by His example, she was a great shepherd of a flock"

OUR DEARLY BELOVED

VICTORIA SAN ANTONIO ROURA

of a devoted wife, an inspiring mother, a loving grandmother.
Peacefully joined our Lord on February 23, 2001 at the age of 67

Her loving husband, **Leonardo C. Roura**;
Her loving children, **Orly & Raquel**, **Bong & Violy**, **Omer** and **Jocelyn**, **Olive** and **Pip**;
Her grandchildren, **Olga**, **Omar** (†), **Olivette**, **Jiro**, **Kim**, **Pio & Pol**;
Her brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Dulong Kalsada Chapel, San Jose, San Miguel, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 28, 2001 at Sta. Rita Memorial Park, San Miguel, Bulacan after the 3:00 P.M. Mass at the St. Joseph Quasi Parish.

SALVADOR N. BARRON

Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 22, 2001 at the age of 84.

His body lies in state at the family residence.

Interment will be on March 3, 2001 at Bacoor Memorial Garden after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church.

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640-2145 OR 640-2975

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Judge IRINEO "Iring" V. MENDOZA

who joined his Creator on January 25, 2001.

wish to convey our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered Masses and prayers; spiritual bouquets; sent flowers and notes of sympathy; extended support; visited and kept vigil; attended the services and funeral rites; and those who in countless ways condoled, helped and comforted us in the hour of our deepest sorrow.

Message of Thanks

We, the FAMILY of the late

ORLANDO P. PUA M.D.M.H.A. CESO IV

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 6, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

LOLITA PALANCA FORTUN

Peacefully joined our Creator on
February 21, 2001 at the age of 55.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati until Sunday morning, February 25, 2001, and will be transferred to St. Anthony Ch[illegible], San Andres, Manila on Sunday a[illegible]noon. Interment will be on February 27, 2001, 2:00 p.m. at Manila South Cemetery.

Our Dearly Beloved

FRANCISCO G. LEVY

(May 20, 1925 - February 12, 2001)
Died in the Grace of our Lord on February 12, 2001 in the U.S.A.
at the age of 75.

Mr. Levy commonly known as ***"Frank"*** was born in the Philippines and was a commerce graduate of the University of Santo Tomas. He left Manila in 1977 to seek a better oppportunity in the United States. He was employed by Allstate Insurance Company for 25 years and was a member of the Millionaires Club of Allstate, St. Basil Choir, Filipino-American Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce and the Filipino-American Seniors Club. Mr. Levy enjoyed golf, fishing and helping the poor.

His bereaved wife **Nedy Alava**; daughters **Miriam**, **Regina**, **Elizabeth Fachers**; son **Frank III**; son-in-law **Harry Facher**; two grandchildren **Aaron** and **Amanda**; brother **Nestor Levy**; and other relatives, including nephews and nieces request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be on February 16, 2001
at the Holy Cross Cemetery in Daly City, CA, USA.

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Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your request will be granted and the prayer must be published.)

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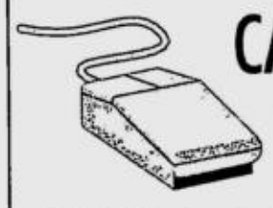

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A CLEAN, WELL-LIT PLACE. Mega Strip has given SM Megamall new energy at night. PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

Dining *al* Mega

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA

JUST when people were beginning to think SM Megamall had ceased to grow, the country's biggest shopping mall just got "bigger" with the recent opening of the Mega Strip, a stretch of trendy restaurants and a coffee shop facing Julia Vargas and St. Francis Avenues.

"My friends and I used to avoid this area after dark," says Gina, an account executive. "Now it has become our favorite meeting place where we unwind and swap stories. And we don't have to go far for dinner."

Gina is a regular at Seattle's Best Coffee, one of the latest American imports to dot Metro Manila's landscape. She and her friends also frequent Kitchen (not to be confused with The Soup Kitchen) for its fusion cuisine.

Albert, an executive for a computer company, also has good reason for trooping to the Mega Strip. So do other foreigners like him who work for the Asian Development Bank and several leading local and multinational companies based at the Ortigas Center.

"The soups at The Soup Kitchen remind me so much of home," says the Tennessee native. "I can sample a different soup for lunch or dinner without having to brave the traffic or look for a parking space."

The country's biggest mall extends the nightlife through Mega Strip, a row of restaurants and coffee shops

Cafe Provençal has also been drawing a good mix of Filipinos and expats for its fine wines, grilled items and French-Mediterranean dishes. Diners, composed mostly of young executives and businesspeople, will soon have more options to choose from with the opening of Smoking Cue and Super Bowl of China.

None of the Mega Strip's late-night habitues would have probably lingered in the area as late as three months ago, except perhaps to grab a ride home or to cross the street to get to the nearby St. Francis Square. The area at the back and left side of Megamall's Building B used to be dark and deserted by the end of mall hours. It later became a terminal for FX taxis.

Alternative

Mega Strip was born out of the mall's desire to serve more people, says Millie Dizon, SM chain's senior assistant vice president for marketing and communications. It gives mall patrons and people working late into the night alternative places to go to.

"We saw a need for it as early as two years ago when the nightlife began flourishing in Malate," she says. "It (Mega Strip) has given the mall new energy."

"It was also inspired by strip malls in the United States," she adds. "Shops that make up these neighborhood malls are accessible from the outside."

In place of dark or poorly lit sidewalks, the entire stretch has been widened by several feet and is now bathed in bright light. Even SM's trademark gray exterior has given way to huge panels, each featuring an establishment's neon sign, painted in the most refreshing pastel shades. The only things missing are plants to help absorb fumes and soften the hard concrete.

"It (widened sidewalk) serves a dual purpose," says Frederick Siy, managing director of Coffee Masters Inc., local franchise holder of Seattle. "People now have more room to walk, while passing cars are now as far from them as possible."

Those behind Seattle and The Soup Kitchen

DINING/ p.C6

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Jesus is tempted by Satan in the desert

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Part 1

OUR Lord prepared for His public ministry by going off to the desert to pray and fast. Maria Valtorta, the holy woman to whom He has granted the privilege of witnessing many visions of His life, writes:

"I see the solitary land which I saw in the vision of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, but I must be some way inside the desert because I neither see the beautiful, blue river nor the green strips of vegetation.

"There is nothing here but solitude, stones and parched earth of yellowish dust, raised now and again by the wind in small eddies which are so hot and dry that they seem to be the breath of a feverish mouth. And they are very troublesome because the dust penetrates the nostrils and throat. Above, there is a merciless sky almost perpendicular to the sky; and below, arid land, stones and silence.

"Leaning against a huge piece of overhanging rock, which, because of its shape forms a kind of grotto, there is Jesus sitting on a stone. (I am made to understand it is also His kneeling-stool and pillow when He takes a few hours' rest, enveloped in his mantle, under a starry sky in the chill air of the night.)

"Near Him, there is the haversack which He brought with Him before departing from Nazareth. It is all He has and from the way it is folded, I realize it has been emptied of the little food His Mother had put into it.

"Jesus is very thin and pale. He is sitting with His elbows resting on His knees, His hands joined and His fingers interlocked, meditating. Now and again, He closes His eyes and leans on the rock sheltering Him, as if He were seized by dizziness.

"I see Satan's ugly face appear. He does not show himself in the features we imagine him: horns, tail, etc. He looks like a Bedouin enveloped in his robe and in a large mantle that resembles a domino. He is wearing a turban on his head and its white flaps fall along his cheeks, down to his shoulders, thus only a very small dark triangle of his face can be seen.

"Two eyes that penetrate but cannot read into your heart—the very opposite of Jesus' eyes which read into your heart and caress the soul. Satan's are like a double-dagger that stabs and burns you. He approaches Jesus. 'Are you alone?'

Jesus looks at him but does not reply.

"How did you happen to be here? Did you get lost?"

Jesus looks at him again but remains silent.

"If I had water in my flask, I would give you some but I have none myself. My horse died, and I am now going on foot to the ford. I will get a drink there and will find someone to give me bread. Come, I know the road, I'll take you there."

Jesus does not even look at him.

"You are not answering? Do you know that if you stay here, you will die? The wind is already beginning to blow. There will be a storm. Come."

Jesus clenches His hand in silent prayer.

"Ah! It is You, then? I have been looking for You for such a long time! And I have been watching You for so long, since You were baptized. Are You calling the Eternal? He is far away. You are now on the earth, in the midst of men. And I reign over men.

"And yet, I feel sorry for You, and I want to help you because You are so good and You have come to sacrifice Yourself for nothing. Men will hate you because of Your goodness. They understand nothing but gold, food and pleasure. Sacrifice, sorrow, obedience are words more arid for them than the land around us here where there are only snakes, ready to bite. Come with me. It is not worthwhile suffering for them. I know them better than You do."

Satan has sat down in front of Jesus and He scrutinizes Him with his dreadful eyes, and smiles at Him with his snake-like mouth. Jesus is always silent and is praying mentally.

"You don't trust me? You are wrong. I am the wisdom of the earth. I can be Your teacher and show You how to triumph. Then once we have imposed ourselves and we have enchanted the world, then we can take them wherever we want. But first, we must be as they wish us to be—like them. We must allure them, making them believe that we admire them and follow their thoughts.

"You are young and handsome. Start with a woman. One must always start with her. I made a mistake inducing the woman to be disobedient. I should have advised her differently. I would have turned her into a better instrument, and I would have beaten God—only I was in a hurry.

" But You! I will teach You...but You must listen to me, and make use of my experience. Find yourself a woman. You are the new Adam. You must have your Eve. For how can you understand and heal the diseases of the senses, if you do not know what they are? Don't You know that that is where the seed is, from which the tree of greediness and arrogance sprouts?

"Why do men want to reign? Why do they want to be rich and powerful? To possess a woman! Gold and power are two sides of the mirror that draw a woman, and are the causes of evil in the world. Look: in a thousand different crimes, there are at least 900 that take root in the lust of possessing a woman or in the passion of a woman, burning with a desire that man has not yet satisfied, or can no longer satisfy. Go to a woman if you want to know what life is. And only then, you will be able to cure and heal the diseases of mankind."

Dr. Gene Abes

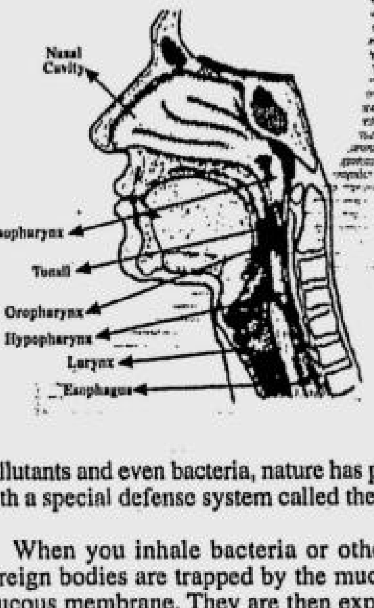
SORE THROAT: THE INSIDE STORY

Dr. Gene Abes, a Master of Public Health graduate, is the chairman of the ENT Department of the Philippine General Hospital.

Do you know what's really happening inside your throat when you experience sore throat? Why is it so painful to swallow? Why do you get sore throat in the first place? Here are a few answers.

What happens when we have sore throat?

Sore throat is technically called pharyngitis, the inflammation of the pharynx due to infectious or non-infectious origin. The inflammation or swelling is what makes it painful for you to swallow. Worse, since the tonsils are part and parcel of the pharynx, inflammation of the pharynx is frequently associated with inflammation of the tonsils and vice versa. Since we cannot distinguish one from the other, then the disease is called tonsilopharyngitis or pharyngotonsilitis



The pharynx is the passageway of food and air. Food enters the pharynx through the mouth then passes through the esophagus and into the stomach. Air, on the other hand, enters the pharynx through the nose then goes through the larynx and into the lungs. Because the air we breathe contains many kinds of pollutants and even bacteria, nature has provided the pharynx with a special defense system called the mucous membrane.

When you inhale bacteria or other pollutants, these foreign bodies are trapped by the mucous secreted by the mucous membrane. They are then expelled from the body when we expectorate. The natural movement of the mucous is innate towards the outside, facilitated by the fine hair cells called "cilia".

Unfortunately, when we have a viral infection (cold, flu), this cilliary mechanism is impaired or damaged. Thus, the trapped bacteria and foreign matter, instead of being expelled with the help of the cilia, tend to stay in the pharynx.

What happens to the bacteria trapped inside your pharynx? They begin to multiply and spread, adhere to the tissues, and result in bacterial sore throat.

Is it possible to get sore throat for no visible reason?

Yes. Recent scientific findings show that we can get sore throat from what we really can't see -- the bacteria already present in the throat. We refer to this bacteria as part of the normal flora.

Under normal conditions, bacterial flora is present in the oropharynx (mouth). These are relatively harmless bacteria. They stay harmless for as long as they exist in a natural ecological balance with the host. So even if we have bacteria in our mouth, for as long as our immune system is strong enough to keep them at a manageable level, then we have nothing to worry about.

However, if for some reason our immune system has been weakened and is not up to the task of keeping the bacteria in check, bacterial infection will quickly occur.

Worse, if you have a viral infection, the bacteria's natural environment will begin to favor its growth. Aside from bringing down your immune system, the virus causes abrasions within your pharynx, allowing the bacteria to cling or adhere to the tissues, multiply and enter the blood vessels. That's when bacterial infection sets in and you begin to experience fever.

Oral antiseptic, specially one with hexetidine, can decrease the number of bacteria in the oropharynx, preventing bacterial infection and helping tissues damaged by viral infection to recover faster.

Read more about sore throat in next week's column.

Leaves bacteria dead.

She wants to be close to her mom who's a workaholic

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Ever since I was a child, I was not close to my mom because she was a workaholic and was always too busy to pay attention to her kids. Because of this, I find it very hard to disclose or even tell my opinions about some matters in life. I am now 18 years old and yearning for an open communication because I also want to share with her what is going on in my life. Moreover, I do believe that she should be one of my best friends because even if all my friends leave me, I know that my mom would catch me in the end and make me feel secure.

I do hope you can give me advice and inspiration, and that through this, I may also be able to voice out for everyone who is in the same case as I am. Thank you and may God bless you always.

MARS VERZONA

Your mother should not just be one of your best friends—she should be your best friend. I hope she and all other mothers will read your letter so they can look into their hearts and review just how they play the proper role of being a mother.

Nowadays of course, with the economic trend making it necessary to work outside the home to add to the much-needed wherewithal for the family, mothers find themselves very busy. However, they should remember that if they cannot give quantity time, they should give quality time to their children. Workaholics do suffer from fatigue, and so there should be a time for rest, which can also be a time for sitting down and listening to children.

There are a lot of reminders for mothers, but for now it is your letter that has to be answered. When she is home, give her a cold drink or a piece of candy, and then start chatting with her, telling her about your day. If she tells you she is tired, massage her shoulders and while doing so, in a soft voice, share with her your thoughts and tell her you have been waiting for her to ask for some advice. If she is free on weekends, suggest some activity with her, like cooking or just listening to the radio or watching TV. And tell her the truth, tell her that you miss her. Try this ploy—write a letter to her revealing the thoughts in your mind, about the problems you face, and when she is asleep, place it in her purse or stick it into her wallet so that she will get to read it later in the day.

If you are Roman Catholics, suggest to her to pray the rosary with you on a quiet evening. Or, even if you are from another religion, you can still request for a time to pray. Offer each day to the Lord, and express to Him your heartbreaks. Blessings will surely come to you.

E-mail the author at titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.

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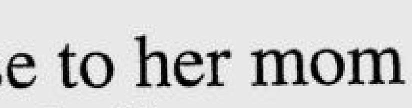

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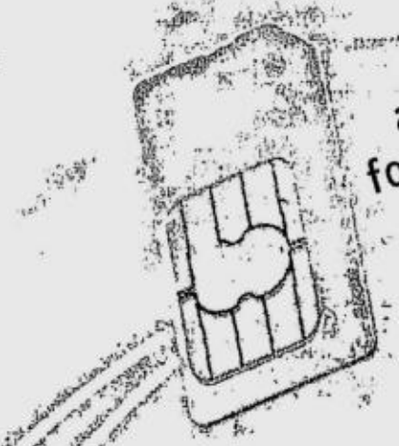
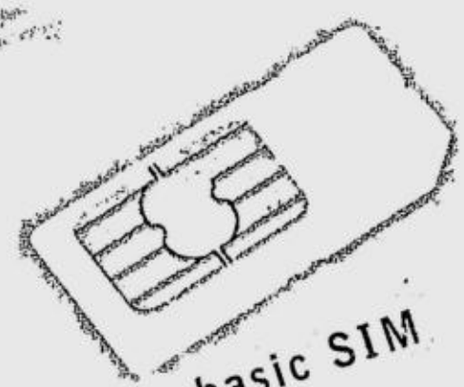
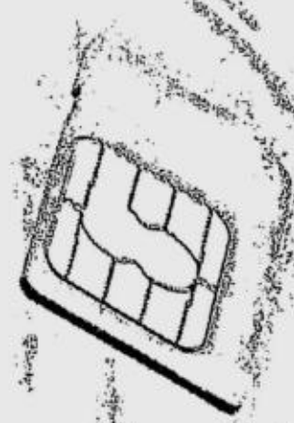


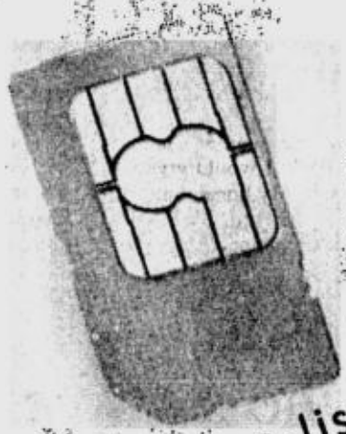
a SIM for money



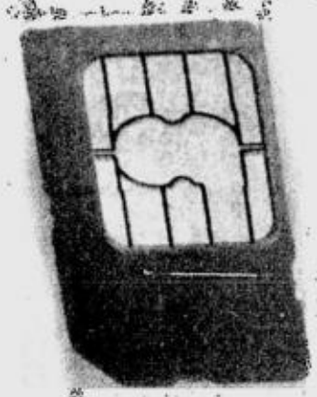
a basic SIM



a SIM for banking



a service-listed SIM



a menu-based SIM

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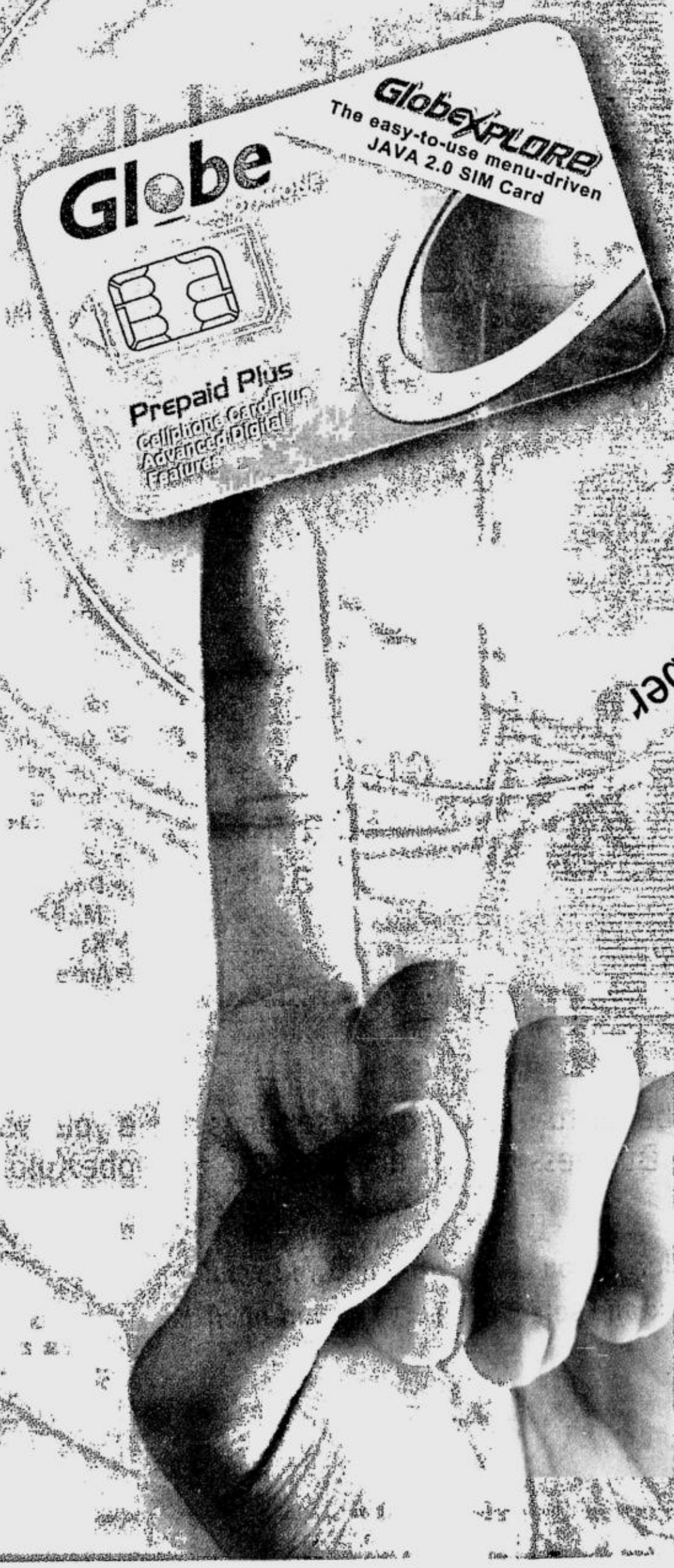

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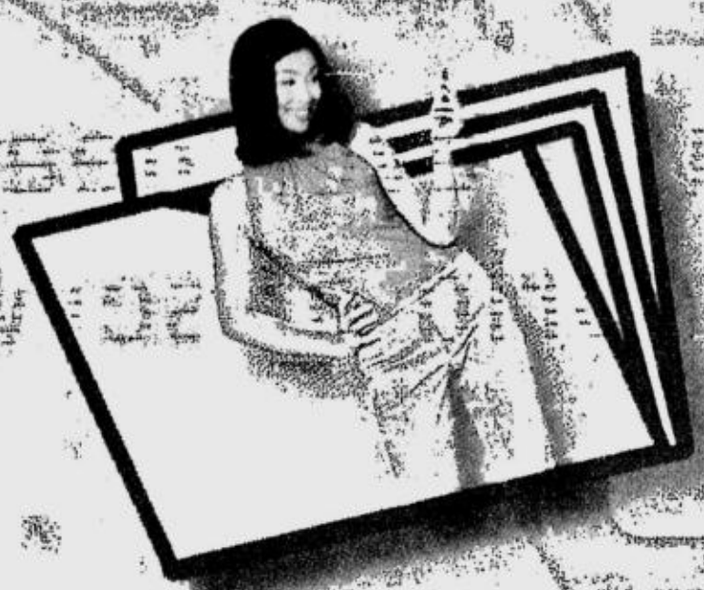

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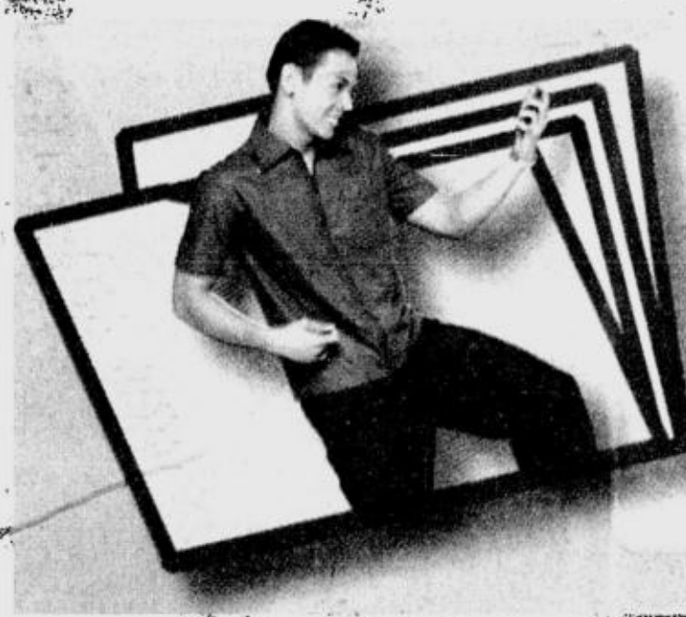

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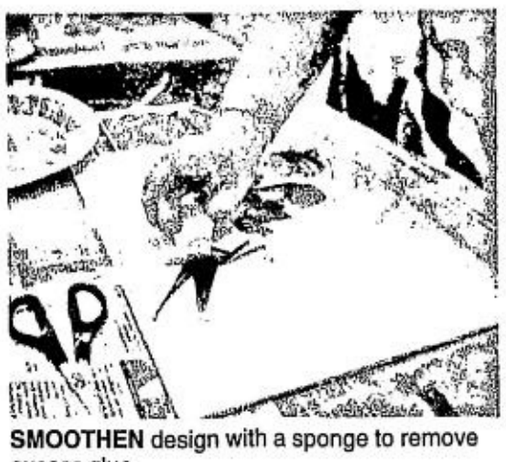
Decoupage is an old art that you could take up as a hobby if you have extra time on your hands and you're into decorating

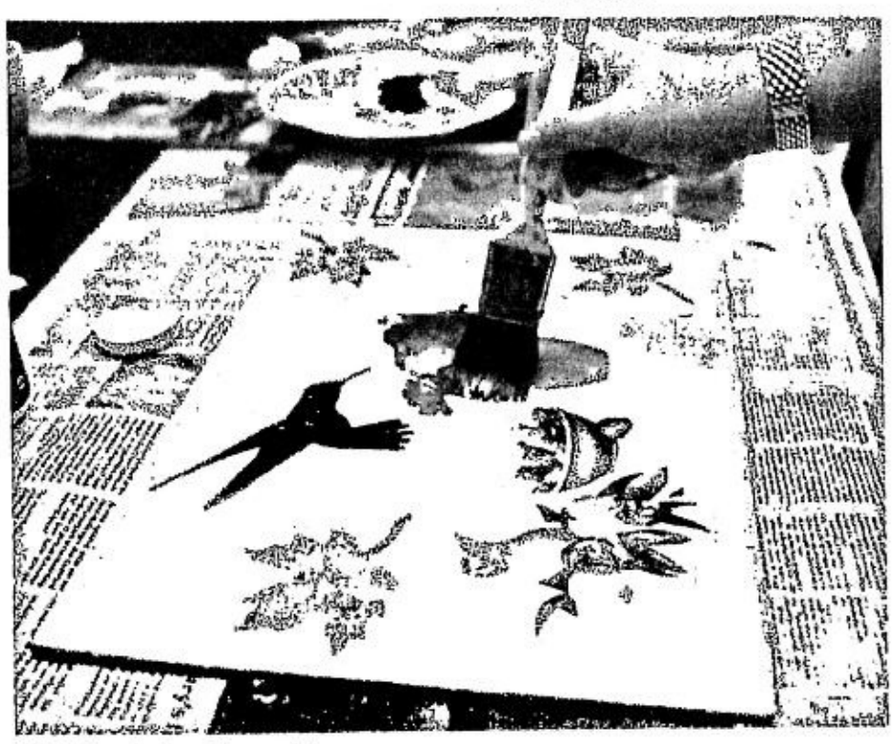
Cut it out!

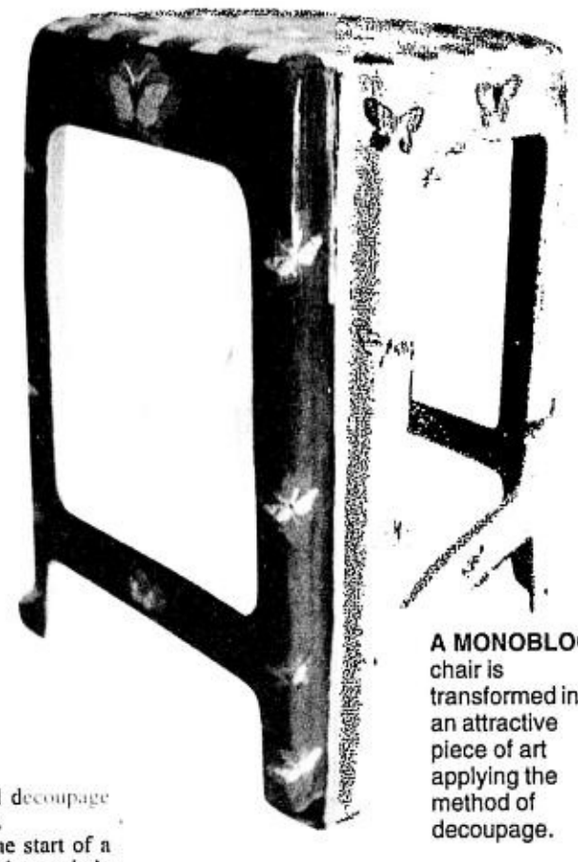
CUT out designs from magazines, newspapers or wallpaper. Apply glue to the back of the cutout design.

CAREFULLY stick the design onto the surface.


SMOOTHEN design with a sponge to remove excess glue.

FLATTEN the paper with a plastic card.


SEAL the design with varnish.


A MONOBLOC chair is transformed into an attractive piece of art applying the method of decoupage.

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

DECOUPAGE (pronounced dey-ku-pazh) is from the French verb *découper* which means "to cut out." This special technique by which surfaces are decorated with pictures of cutout paper hit the art scene during the 18th century in Europe. It was later adapted in the United States in the '60s as a popular form of decorating boxes, trays, wastebaskets, lampshades, chests and screens.

In the Philippines, decoupage is known exclusively to people involved in the arts. However, the method of cutting out designs and applying them permanently to any surface to create an attractive decoration has been, unknowingly, a normal practice for many of us. "The thing is, people just don't know that cutting and pasting is a form of decoupage," says Carmen Prieto, an artist and a teacher of decorative arts at the Ayala Museum.

The beauty of decoupage is that it transforms your simple, plain furniture, screens or wall panels into something more interesting. Although there are many variations in technique, the four basic steps of decoupage generally are cutting out the pictures, arranging them to depict a scene or tell a story, pasting them on a surface and applying thin coats of varnish or lacquer to the pictures.

People who have a lot of time on their hands but want a convenient hobby can engage in decoupage. Imagine the infinite ways of expressing one's creativity without having to learn a complex technique—like you'd need in sketching or painting. The designs are endless, from flowers, cars, to still life and even photographs. They can be pasted to any surface—cement, wood or glass.

Addicting hobby

Prieto, who conducts regular classes on decorative arts, describes decoupage as addicting. "Decoupage can be an absorbing hobby since the designs are aplenty," she says.

One of its great appeals is that a lot of plain but useful everyday items like containers, frames, boxes and metalwork can be made to look appealing and distinct, at no great cost. For instance, an old, plain lampshade can be transformed into a stylish, modern-day accent by embellishing it with flowers, birds or butterflies. Also, a bare and boring kitchen can be converted into a smart and chic room with pictures of fruits, veggies or baskets pasted on the walls.

Another come-on of decoupage is that the materials needed are affordable and readily available. For this reason, the decorated items can be easily sold in boutiques and bazaars. In fact, former students of Prieto at the Ayala Museum have ventured into the decorative arts business. They create beautiful decoupage products and sell them in specialty shops.

Who knows, this art form may be the start of a business for you. Or, if you cannot afford an artist's services, you can do your own decorating at home with decoupage.

Easy-to-follow guide

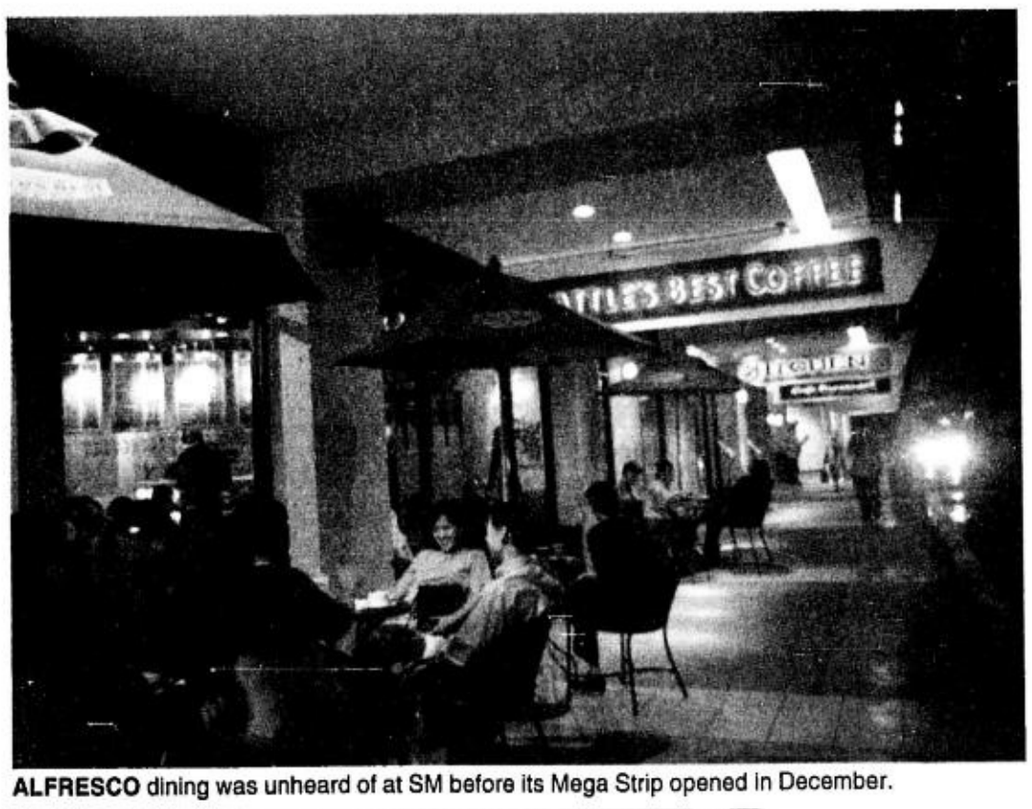
Here's an easy-to-follow guide to help you make your first decoupage. Materials needed include a pattern or a design, a pair of scissors or cutter, glue, varnish, plastic card and sponge.

Carmen says beginners should choose designs that are easy to cut out. You can choose designs from magazines, newspapers, cloth, wallpaper, old photographs, etc. For instance, if you opt to use a flower as a design, cut it out as close to the design as possible. Eliminate the background. The design can be big or small depending on where you wish to put it.

Then, choose a surface where you wish to place it. It can be walls, cupboards, tables, chairs, etc. Make sure the surface is free from dust or grime. Apply glue to the back of your cutout design and carefully stick it to the surface. Make sure the piece is properly glued on.

After gluing the pattern, smoothen the design with a sponge to remove excess glue. The strokes must start from the middle of the design toward its edges to avoid bubbles. Then, flatten the paper with a plastic card (use a credit card or phone card). Finally, seal the design by applying varnish all over the finished pattern with a brush. The varnish makes the color sharper. Let dry for five minutes.

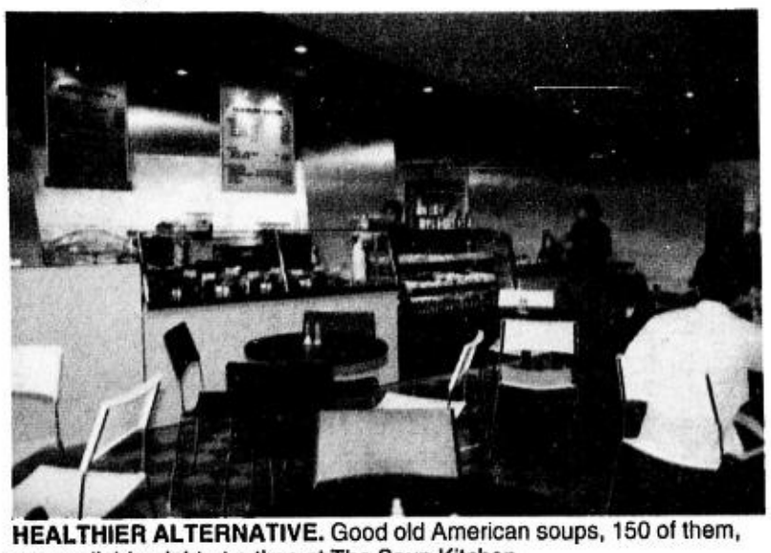
E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph


ALFRESCO dining was unheard of at SM before its Mega Strip opened in December.

COFFEE CULTURE. Seattle's Best Coffee has become the new place to see and be seen.

Dining *al* Mega

DINERS enjoy fusion dishes at Kitchen.


HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVE. Good old American soups, 150 of them, are available eight at a time at The Soup Kitchen

(From page C1)

have decided to maximize every available space by placing several tables and chairs on the sidewalk. Al fresco dining outside SM? It's a good move, actually, since the two share the 200-sq-m floor area allotted for each establishment.

"We're in good company," says Eugene Chan, owner of The Soup Kitchen. "We complement rather than compete with each other. Those who work late, for example, could use either a cup of coffee or a bowl of soup to wake them up."

Full

During the four days of Edsa II, for instance, every restaurant along the strip was swarmed by hungry throngs of protesters. Last Valentine's Day, chef Nick Anderson of Cafe Provençal found himself juggling several dishes at the same time to cope with the sudden demand.

"I was bracing myself for Valentine's Day," he says, "but I never expected it to be that busy."

To come up with an ideal mix of restaurants, the mall invited those it deems trendy and apt for its market. Part of SM Department Store had to give way to accommodate restaurants along the strip.

Unlike Malate, parking is no problem along the strip. On top of the available parking space in the mall, establishments have each been given eight parking slots in front of their respective facades. Customers can also park on Julia Vargas and St. Francis later in the evening. Most establishments are open up to 2 a.m. on weekends.

"Others have no need to park at all," Dizon adds. "They walk here direct from their offices without passing through the mall."

This early, SM Megamall is planning to extend the concept across the street with a new set of attractions. So, will it be Mega Strip A or Mega Strip B? Like its ad says, the country's leading mall chain has "got it all for you."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

CAFE Provençal has the homey ambiance and sumptuous French-Mediterranean food ideal for a quiet dinner with the family or one's object of affection.

Sr. Anna Carmela Seron Pesongco, R.A. of Region 6 is Gintong Ilawan National Winner

The principal of Assumption School in Iloilo City reveals a genuine concern and compassion for the "lost, the last, and the least" in her community.

Sr. Anna Carmela Seron Pesongco, R.A. of Assumption Iloilo, Region 6 was named Most Outstanding Private Secondary School Principal in the 12th Gintong Ilawan: Teodora Alonso Educator's Award in ceremonies held recently at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati City. The program is a joint endeavor of Avon and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), in cooperation with the Fund for Assistance for Private Education (FAPE) and the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities - Coordinating Council of Private Education Association (PACU-COCOPEA) to recognize outstanding achievements of female secondary principals.

Her prizes include P100,000 in cash, a trophy, a Gintong Ilawan statuette sculpted by Dr. Ton Raymundo, and an educational grant to Japan, courtesy of DECS. Her school, on the other hand, received a trophy and P30,000.

The 49-year-old educator was chosen out of the fifteen regional winners for her exemplary professional achievements as principal of the Assumption School in Iloilo City. Her impressive credentials, which include a Doctorate in Educational Management, uphold and reveal a genuine concern and compassion for the "lost, the last, and the least" in her community. She is not only a passionate advocate of the Assumption philosophy of education, but is also a visionary crusader for value formation and socio-civic involvement in the educational arena and the wider community.

In her acceptance speech, Sr. Anna eloquently spoke of the "tiny light" that is within all those whom God has chosen to teach and help others. This light, she says, can grow and create a chain of healing and harmony wherever there is darkness, ignorance and corruption.

Closest to her heart are the poor communities around Iloilo, whose upliftment and welfare are among the priority programs of her own school. Over the years, she has found herself at the forefront of various outreach programs that encourage parents, alumni and nearby communities to give of their time and resources to such worthy involvements. Such is this principal's heart for the less fortunate that she has even pledged to donate her monetary prize to help activate these programs. Dr. Roberto Borromeo, chairperson of FAPE and chairperson of the National Board of Judges observes, "Her concern for equity did not diminish her concern for quality of education."

As an educator, Sr. Anna prioritizes the educational and emotional development of her students.

A great believer in getting parents involved in the all-around well-being of their children, she cites the importance of mothers, in particular, in fostering a love for learning among the youth.

Taking her cue from Teodora Alonso, herself, the inspiration behind the Gintong Ilawan award, she recognizes the fact that a true thirst for "light" and knowledge begins not in the classroom but in the home. Sr. Anna knows that quality information programs for parents is the key to having "more Teodora Alonsos bringing up more Rizals who will be the hope of our land."

Congratulations to Sr. Anna Carmela! May this be just the beginning of the fulfillment of her dreams for the future.

15 Regional Winners Are AIM Graduates

Education is an ongoing process that one must actively pursue throughout one's lifetime.

The 15 regional winners of the Gintong Ilawan: Teodora Alonso Educator's Award — accomplished educators in themselves — enthusiastically participated in a special Asian Institute of Management (AIM) training program which was part of their prize package that included P20,000 cash prizes each for the principal and her school.

The 3-day course, known as the Principals School Management program (PRISM), was designed to provide them insights on management trends and intensify skills in the strategic management of high schools.

Not only will these fifteen women be returning to their respective schools and communities as AIM graduates and recognized achievers, but they are now well-equipped with a greater perspective of the ever-changing horizons in education, as well as the appropriate skills to be able to address them. In addition, all the principals pledged to share with their teachers and their peers learnings derived from the course.

The regional winners with the Avon officials (First row, l-r): Jesina Francisco, Region 1; Imelda Bautista, Region 2; Alma Cayanong, Region 3; Sc. Anna Carmela Seron Pesongco, R.A., Region 6; Anita Ronas, Region 4; Sister Gaudencia Aurora, OSA, Region 5; Ma. Teresa Canton, Region 7; (second row) Nenita Abanes, Region 8; Carolina Laguera, Region 9; Julita Chavez, Region 10; Dulce Advincula, Region 11; Rafaelita Albure, Region 12; (third row) Maria C. Dy Buncio, Avon Cosmetics, Inc. General Manager; Ken Gibson, Avon Vice President for Manufacturing, Asia Pacific; Lourdi Dy, NCR; Pelagia Javen, CARAGA; Rosario Cordero, CAR; and Jose Mari Franco, Avon Area Vice President for Southern Asia

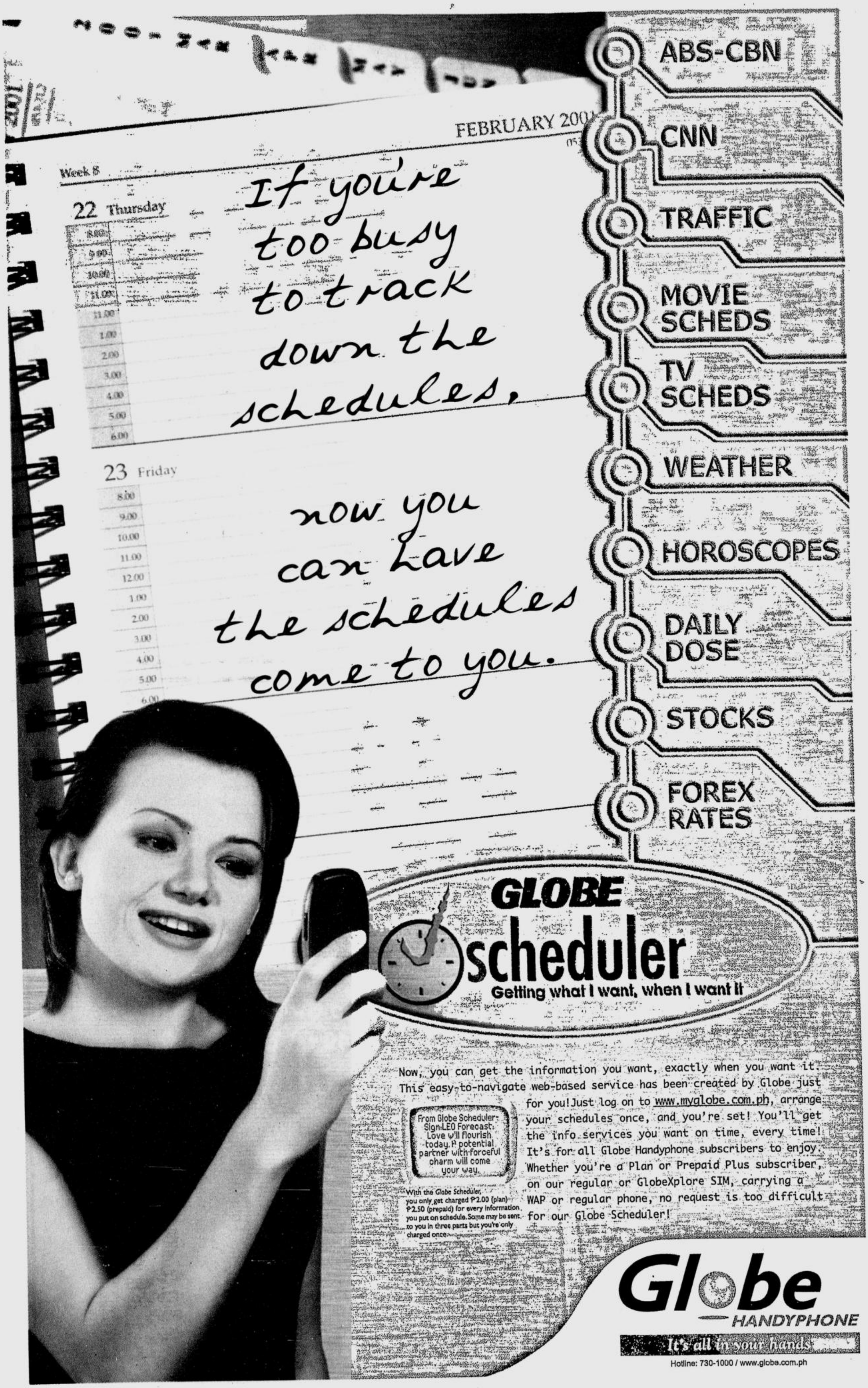
AVON

12th Gintong Ilawan

Teodora Alonso Educator's Award

In partnership with the Department of Education, Culture, & Sports

GINTONG ILAWAN


FEBRUARY 2001
Week 8
22 Thursday
23 Friday
If you're too busy to track down the schedules,
now you can have the schedules come to you.
ABS-CBN
CNN
TRAFFIC
MOVIE SCHEDS
TV SCHEDS
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HOROSCOPES
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Getting what I want, when I want it
Now, you can get the information you want, exactly when you want it. This easy-to-navigate web-based service has been created by Globe just for you! Just log on to www.myglobe.com.ph, arrange your schedules once, and you're set! You'll get the info services you want on time, every time! It's for all Globe Handyphone subscribers to enjoy. Whether you're a Plan or Prepaid Plus subscriber, on our regular or GlobeXplore SIM, carrying a WAP or regular phone, no request is too difficult for our Globe Scheduler!
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Sunday LIFESTYLE INQ Trends & Trendings

Exhibit on rockscapes, a fund-raiser for La Mesa Dam and false rumors

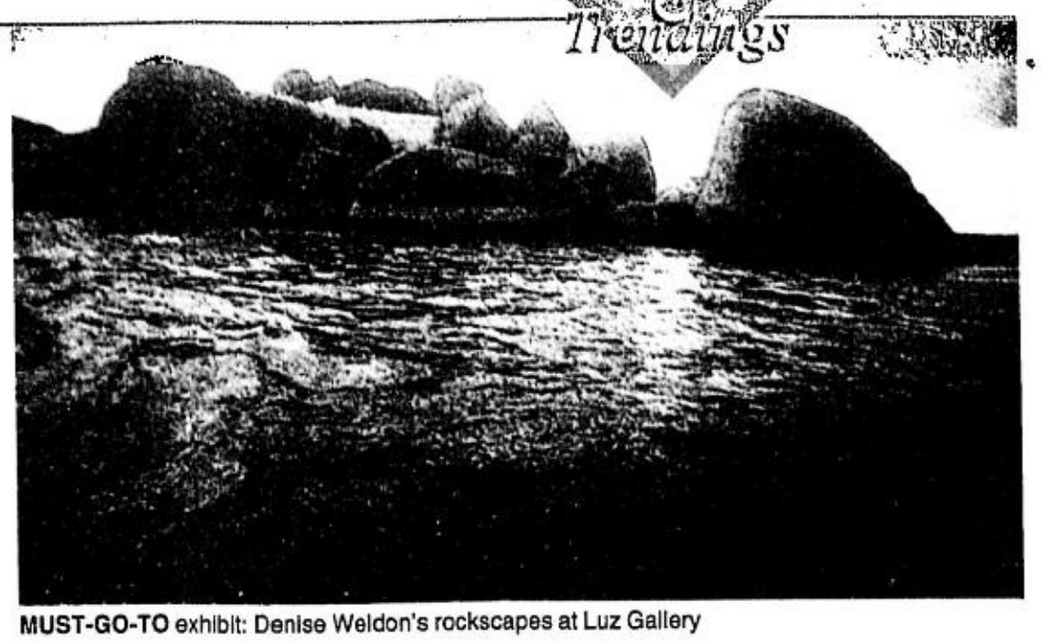
BY ANTON SAN DIEGO

MUST-GO-TO exhibit. In recent years, photography has achieved recognition as an art form, alongside painting, sculpture and the like. One person who is able to capture its beauty and essence is **Denise Weldon**. She is one of the country's celebrated photographers in the country focusing on people. This time she pays homage to Mother Earth with her exhibit on rockscapes, plant images and nature. It will be held on March 3-22 at the Luz Gallery.

Text messaging, Part 2. About a month ago, I wrote about how text messaging saved our democracy and other experiences I had with my cell phone. This week, this column features other observations in using the cell phone.

I remember when I first got my phone. I only had 20 numbers in my address list. I upgraded my phone so now I have 200 numbers. I've stored the numbers

EXHIBIT/ p. D2



MUST-GO-TO exhibit: Denise Weldon's rockscapes at Luz Gallery

Roam around the world with the Siemens S40 tri-band celfone.

Now, SMART lets you enjoy international roaming in Asia, Europe, and finally in the U.S.! Only with the new Siemens S40. It's a tri-band celfone running on the 900, 1800 and 1900 megahertz bands. It automatically adjusts and searches for the network that offers the best line wherever you are. So you get the best service anywhere in the world.. Now available at your nearest SMART dealer.

Other exciting features of the Siemens S40:
Dictaphone • W@P-enabled • 20 customized ringtones • Address book for up to 1000 entries • 6-liner display with blue backlight • Auto redial • Infrared function • Calendar

Also available through SMART Buddy Pre-paid.

SMART GOLD GSM

Scent of a Roman

In this age of commercial designer fragrances, an old fragrance or personalized formula just may be the accessory that sets you apart from the rest of the fashion pack

BY KITTY GO

IF there is anything that will insult me, it is someone trying to guess what fragrance I am wearing by saying, "*Ano yan*, cK, '*no*?" I don't know about you, but when I catch a whiff or find out someone wears the same scent as I do, the fragrance goes in the bin. There may not be enough scents as there are people but I always try to find something that no one else I know will be wearing.

My friend and ex-Preview section editor Gino de la Paz used to say, "It takes the patronage of only one Hollywood celebrity to turn a perfectly stylish line into a disastrous one." That hasn't happened yet with Santa Maria Novella. The **Officina Profumo-Farmaceutica Di Santa Maria Novella** (Corso del Rinascimento, 47) was started by the Dominican Fathers in 1221, the same year they arrived in Florence. What started as a pharmacy preparing medications and herbal mixes for the monastery's infirmary has grown into a privately held company with shops in Venice, Bologna, London, Paris and Milan with distribution in New York at Takashimaya on Fifth Avenue. Select products can also be found in Manila at **Homme et Femme** at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

In the 1700s, the fame of Santa Maria Novella spread as far as China and Russia. In 1866 Cesare Augusto Stefani, nephew of the last Dominican director of the company took over; since then, four generations of the Stefani family have managed Santa Maria Novella while maintaining the procedures and natural ingredients the friars used.

Because of the company's history, every product, from balsamic mint pastilles to bath oil, has a story. The soaps are still made with machines from the 1850s. They are still packed and labeled by hand. The eau de cologne Santa Maria Novella was commissioned by Catherine de Medici who later became the queen of France. Thus, internally, the scent is called Caterina. To this day they still make aromatic vinegar for fainting called Vinegar of the Seven Thieves, and an elixir for hysterics called Water of Santa Maria Novella. This liquid is made from the herb Santa Maria, known for its calming qualities.

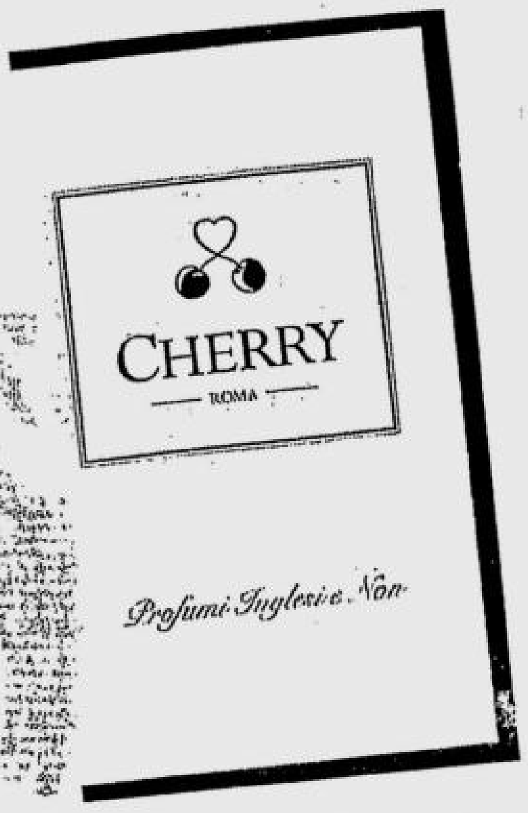
Profumeria Materozzoli (Piazza S. Lorenzo in Lucina, 5) is another old pharmacy but does not rival the history of Santa Maria Novella. Only the Pantheon and Christianity are older than Santa Maria Novella. Materozzoli was established in 1870 and still retains marble and wood counters and old fashioned glass-encased and wood-framed cabinets.

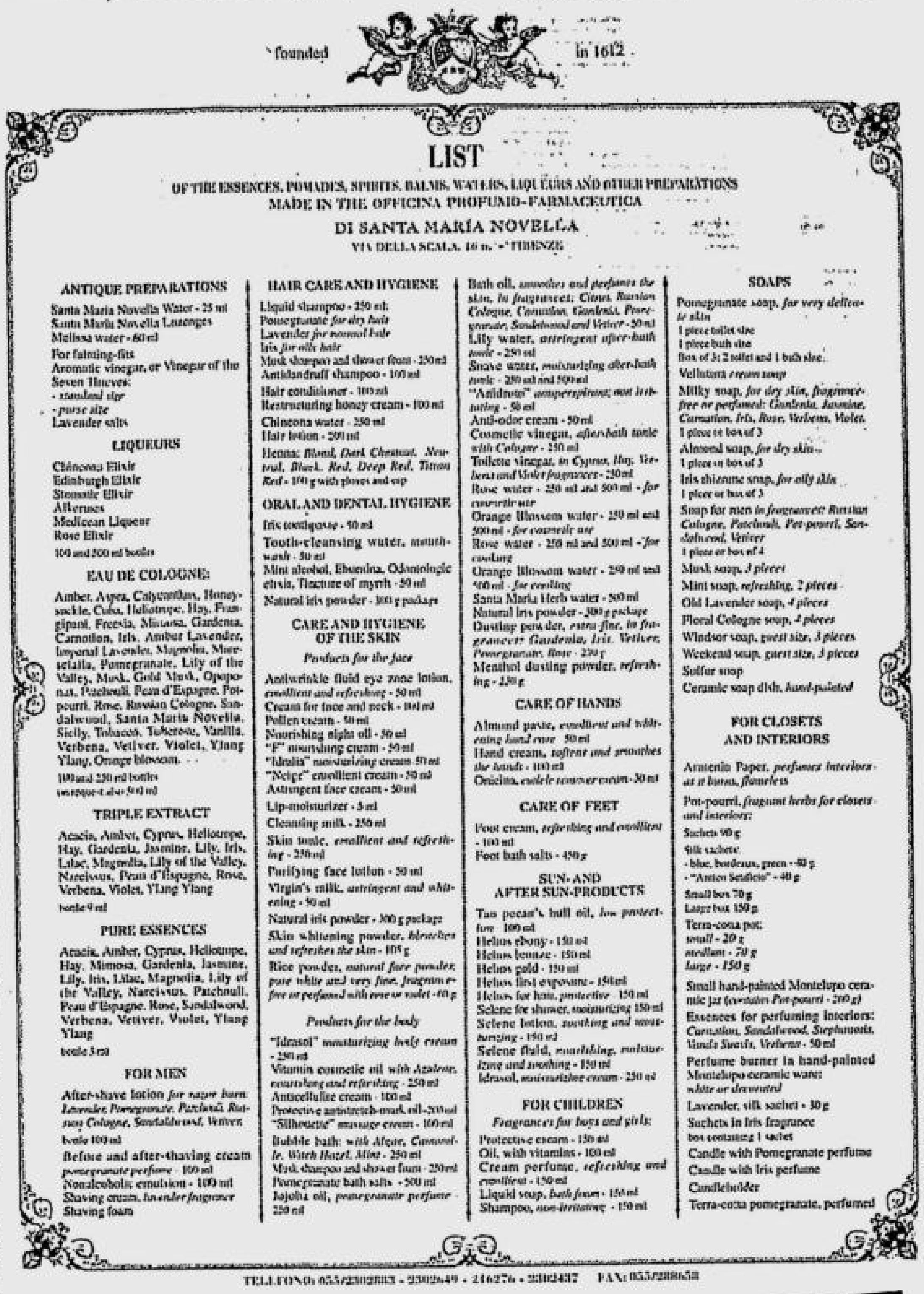
I was charmed by the sight of modern cosmetics like Kiehl's, Crabtree and Evelyn, Estée Lauder and Lancôme displayed in centuries-old cabinets. Materozzoli makes our local beauty emporiums look empty. Every square inch of display space is crammed with testers or stock of local and international cosmetics including cult favorites Lorenzo Villorese in cobalt blue bottles, Creed, Nereides, Czech and Speake, DH Harris, Comptoir Sud Pacifique and Rigaud candles. This is not a place to go to if you are pressed for time because, a) the staff does not speak English and, b) nothing is in order so you either have to ask by playing charades or look around yourself (which is fun unless a salesperson follows you around).

For a more personal (read: very small store) experience, pop into **Cherry** (Via F. Crispi, 73 or www.CherryRoma.com). This miniscule boutique can probably hold no more than four people, including the salesgirl, but it boasts the widest selection of English toiletry lines for men and women such as Czech and Speake, Floris, Geo F. Trumper, Taylor of Old Bond Street and Penhaligon. Cherry also carries Crabtree and Evelyn, Annick Goutal, Molinard (in 1920s style bottles and labels), Saint Barth, Diptyque, Kiehl's and Creed. (Creed is also found in Manila at Wish at the 6750 Ayala Avenue building).

My biggest find at Cherry was a local line by Italian "nose" Laura Tonato. The single-note jasmine cologne and bath oil rivals only Jasmal, the top-of-the-line jasmine fragrance by Creed. The Laura Tonato line also has candles, lotion and sticks to scent interiors. I've never seen these sticks before and they work like this: You dip these sticks in a jar of scent and wait for the perfume to waft through your room.

Materozzoli does not give tax rebates unlike Cherry and Santa Maria Novella. Although the shopping experience at Materozzoli may be better, I suggest you shop at Cherry first to avail of the tax refund.




founded in 1612

LIST
OF THE ESSENCES, POMADES, SPIRITS, BALMS, WATERS, LIQUEURS AND OTHER PREPARATIONS
MADE IN THE OFFICINA PROFUMO-FARMACEUTICA
DI SANTA MARÍA NOVELLA
VIA DELLA SCALA, 16 n. - FIRENZE

ANTIQUE PREPARATIONS
Santa Maria Novella Water - 25 ml
Santa Maria Novella Lozenges
Melissa water - 60 ml
For fainting-fits
Aromatic vinegar, or Vinegar of the Seven Thieves:
- *standard size*
- *purse size*
Lavender salts

LIQUEURS
Chinoona Elixir
Edinburgh Elixir
Stomatic Elixir
Alkermes
Medicean Liqueur
Rose Elixir
100 and 500 ml bottles

EAU DE COLOGNE:
Amber, Aqua, Calycanthus, Honeysuckle, Cuba, Heliotrope, Hay, Frangipani, Freesia, Mimosa, Gardenia, Carnation, Iris, Amber Lavender, Imperial Lavender, Magnolia, Muscatella, Pomegranate, Lily of the Valley, Musk, Gold Musk, Opoponax, Patchouli, Peau d'Espagne, Potpourri, Rose, Russian Cologne, Sandalwood, Santa Maria Novella, Sicily, Tobacco, Tuberose, Vanilla, Verbena, Vetiver, Violet, Ylang Ylang, Orange blossom.
100 and 250 ml bottles
[illegible] 500 ml

TRIPLE EXTRACT
Acacia, Amber, Cyprus, Heliotrope, Hay, Gardenia, Jasmine, Lily, Iris, Lilac, Magnolia, Lily of the Valley, Narcissus, Peau d'Espagne, Rose, Verbena, Violet, Ylang Ylang
bottle 9 ml

PURE ESSENCES
Acacia, Amber, Cyprus, Heliotrope, Hay, Mimosa, Gardenia, Jasmine, Lily, Iris, Lilac, Magnolia, Lily of the Valley, Narcissus, Patchouli, Peau d'Espagne, Rose, Sandalwood, Verbena, Vetiver, Violet, Ylang Ylang
bottle 5 ml

FOR MEN
After-shave lotion *for razor burn: Lavender, Pomegranate, Patchouli, Russian Cologne, Sandalwood, Vetiver,* bottle 100 ml
Before and after-shaving cream *pomegranate perfume* - 100 ml
Nonalcoholic emulsion - 100 ml
Shaving cream, *lavender fragrance*
Shaving foam

HAIR CARE AND HYGIENE
Liquid shampoo - 250 ml:
Pomegranate *for dry hair*
Lavender *for normal hair*
Iris *for oily hair*
Musk shampoo and shower foam - 250 ml
Antidandruff shampoo - 100 ml
Hair conditioner - 100 ml
Restructuring honey cream - 100 ml
Chincona water - 250 ml
Hair lotion - 200 ml
Henna: *Blond, Dark Chestnut, Neutral, Black, Red, Deep Red, Titian Red* - 100 g with gloves and cap

ORAL AND DENTAL HYGIENE
Iris toothpaste - 50 ml
Tooth-cleansing water, *mouthwash* - 50 ml
Mint alcohol, Ebendina, Odontologic elixir, Tincture of myrrh - 50 ml
Natural iris powder - 100 g package

CARE AND HYGIENE OF THE SKIN
Products for the face
Antiwrinkle fluid eye zone lotion, *emollient and refreshing* - 50 ml
Cream for face and neck - 100 ml
Pollen cream - 50 ml
Nourishing night oil - 50 ml
"F" nourishing cream - 50 ml
"Idralia" *moisturizing cream* 50 ml
"Neige" emollient cream - 50 ml
Astringent face cream - 50 ml
Lip-moisturizer - 5 ml
Cleansing milk - 250 ml
Skin tonic, *emollient and refreshing* - 250 ml
Purifying face lotion - 50 ml
Virgin's milk, *astringent and whitening* - 50 ml
Natural iris powder - 100 g package
Skin whitening powder, *bleaches and refreshes the skin* - 105 g
Rice powder, *natural face powder, pure white and very fine, fragrance-free or perfumed with rose or violet* - 40 g
Products for the body
"Idrasol" *moisturizing body cream* - 250 ml
Vitamin cosmetic oil *with Azalea, nourishing and refreshing* - 250 ml
Anticellulite cream - 100 ml
Protective antistretch-mark oil - 200 ml
"Silhouette" *massage cream* - 100 ml
Bubble bath: *with Algae, Camomile, Witch Hazel, Mint* - 250 ml
Musk shampoo and shower foam - 250 ml
Pomegranate bath salts - 500 ml
Jojoba oil, *pomegranate perfume* - 250 ml
Bath oil, *smoothes and perfumes the skin, in fragrances: Citrus, Russian Cologne, Carnation, Gardenia, Pomegranate, Sandalwood and Vetiver* - 50 ml
Lily water, *astringent after-bath tonic* - 250 ml
Suave water, *moisturizing after-bath tonic* - 250 ml and 500 ml
"Antidroso" *antiperspirant; not irritating* - 50 ml
Anti-odor cream - 50 ml
Cosmetic vinegar, *after-bath tonic with Cologne* - 250 ml
Toilette vinegar, *in Cyprus, Hay, Verbena and Violet fragrances* - 250 ml
Rose water - 250 ml and 500 ml - *for cosmetic use*
Orange Blossom water - 250 ml and 500 ml - *for cosmetic use*
Rose water - 250 ml and 500 ml - *for cooking*
Orange Blossom water - 250 ml and 500 ml - *for cooking*
Santa Maria Herb water - 500 ml
Natural iris powder - 300 g package
Dusting powder, *extra fine, in fragrances: Gardenia, Iris, Vetiver, Pomegranate, Rose* - 250 g
Menthol dusting powder, *refreshing* - 250 g

CARE OF HANDS
Almond paste, *emollient and whitening hand cure* - 50 ml
Hand cream, *softens and smoothes the hands* - 100 ml
Oricina, *cuticle remover cream* - 30 ml

CARE OF FEET
Foot cream, *refreshing and emollient* - 100 ml
Foot bath salts - 450 g

SUN AND AFTER SUN-PRODUCTS
Tan pecan's hull oil, *low protection* - 100 ml
Helios ebony - 150 ml
Helios bronze - 150 ml
Helios gold - 150 ml
Helios first exposure - 150 ml
Helios for hair, *protective* - 150 ml
Selene for shower, *moisturizing* 150 ml
Selene lotion, *soothing and moisturizing* - 150 ml
Selene fluid, *nourishing, moisturizing and soothing* - 150 ml
Idrasol, *moisturizing cream* - 250 ml

FOR CHILDREN
Fragrances for boys and girls:
Protective cream - 150 ml
Oil, with vitamins - 100 ml
Cream perfume, *refreshing and emollient* - 150 ml
Liquid soap, *bath foam* - 150 ml
Shampoo, *non-irritating* - 150 ml

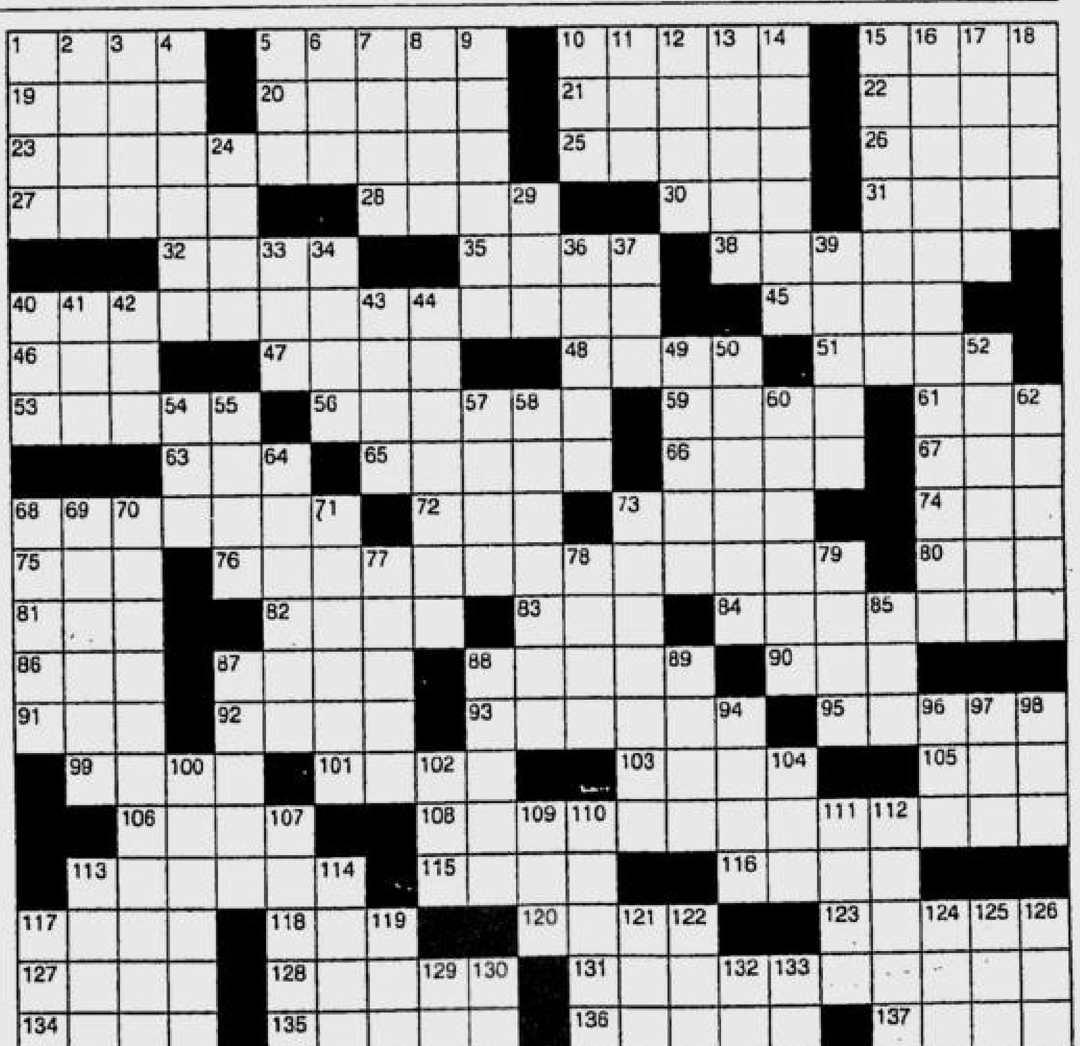
SOAPS
Pomegranate soap, *for very delicate skin*
1 piece toilet size
1 piece bath size
Box of 3: 2 toilet and 1 bath size
Vellutata *cream soap*
Milky soap, *for dry skin, fragrance-free or perfumed: Gardenia, Jasmine, Carnation, Iris, Rose, Verbena, Violet.*
1 piece or box of 3
Almond soap, *for dry skin*
1 piece or box of 3
Iris rhizome soap, *for oily skin*
1 piece or box of 3
Soap for men *in fragrances: Russian Cologne, Patchouli, Pot-pourri, Sandalwood, Vetiver*
1 piece or box of 4
Musk soap, *3 pieces*
Mint soap, *refreshing, 2 pieces*
Old Lavender soap, *4 pieces*
Floral Cologne soap, *4 pieces*
Windsor soap, *guest size, 3 pieces*
Weekend soap, *guest size, 3 pieces*
Sulfur soap
Ceramic soap dish, *hand-painted*

FOR CLOSETS AND INTERIORS
Armenia Paper, *perfumes interiors as it burns, flameless*
Pot-pourri, *fragrant herbs for closets and interiors:*
Sachets 90 g
Silk sachets:
- blue, bordeaux, green - 40 g
- "Antico Setificio" - 40 g
Small box 70 g
Large box 150 g
Terra-cotta pot:
small - 20 g
medium - 70 g
large - 150 g
Small hand-painted Montelupo ceramic jar (*contains Pot-pourri* - 200 g)
Essences for perfuming interiors: *Carnation, Sandalwood, Stephanotis, Vanda Suavis, Verbena* - 50 ml
Perfume burner in hand-painted Montelupo ceramic ware: *white or decorated*
Lavender, silk sachet - 30 g
Sachets in Iris fragrance
box containing 1 sachet
Candle with Pomegranate perfume
Candle with Iris perfume
Candleholder
Terra-cotta pomegranate, perfumed

TELEFONO: 055/2302883 - 2302649 - 216276 - 2302437 FAX: 055/288658

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ALTERNATIVES



ACROSS
1 Type of file
5 Broadway org.
10 Bog
15 — Cass
19 Game ending?
20 Prentiss or Poundstone
21 Kind of quartz
22 Vizquel of baseball
23 Approximately
25 Puzzling problem
26 "Peter Pan" pooch
27 Hester Prynne's kid
28 Kids connect them
30 Shorten a skirt
31 Social climber
32 James of "Misery"
35 Clods
38 Owl or eagle
40 New Hampshire's motto
45 — -do-well
46 Shelley showcase
47 Lauder powder
48 Squealers
51 Zodiac crustacean
53 32 Across' co-star
56 Mountaineers' gear
59 "Darn!"
61 Envelope abbr.
63 Indeed
65 Egyptian Nobelist
66 "Battle Cry" author
67 Alibi
68 Coaching legend
72 Came by
73 Exclude
74 Actress Hagen
75 Misjudge
76 "Make a decision!"
80 Big —, CA
81 "What —, a mind reader?"
82 Appearance
83 Royal abbr.
84 Most meager
86 Pres., e.g.
87 Delhi dress
88 Assail
90 Author Grafton
91 Cry over a mouse?
92 Lena of "Havana"
93 Showy shrub
95 High-toned guy?
99 Couch
101 Wax device
103 Praise
105 Summon mommy
106 Enthusiastic review
108 Hamlet's line
113 "Islands in the —" ('83 hit)
115 Frame of mind
116 "Nonsense!"
117 Terrible
118 Boar's beloved
120 Rigatoni relative
123 Bridal path?
127 Brainchild
128 Hebrew text
131 Survival option
134 "Oh, woe!"
135 Honshu metropolis
136 Furry fisherman
137 Tourist isle
138 Riga resident
139 Katmandu's country
140 Peter of Herman's Hermits
141 List ender

DOWN
1 Interstate exit
2 — vera
3 Writer Paretsky
4 Give it one's awl?
5 Cal. page
6 Guitarist Sussman
7 Acted promptly?
8 Besides
9 Ecclesiastic
10 Cartographer's creation
11 Give it — (try)
12 Hasty
13 That's no bull!
14 Grammy winner Woody
15 Dragon or Dracula
16 Words for a wimp
17 Lord's lair
18 Spirited steed
24 Norwegian name
29 Disconsolate
33 Humorist Buchwald
34 Tide type
36 Earliest
37 Word with cow or horse
39 Acts like a chicken
40 Tennis stroke
41 — Bell Wells
42 Donkey doc
43 Bulldogs
44 A shape that stops traffic
49 Tiny Tom
50 Soap opera, e.g.
52 Cassius' cohort
54 Pupil's place
55 Medieval menial
57 Bouquet
58 Mississippi port
60 Gary and Elizabeth
62 Kickoff
64 Muppet drummer
68 Quiet partner?
69 Hosts
70 Halloween greeting
71 Ancient deity
73 Shakespearean tragedy
77 German poet
78 Air bear?
79 Flexed, as muscles
85 Born
87 Italian wine
88 "The Jungle Book" bear
89 Glum drop?
94 Parental sibling
96 Sgt. or cpl.
97 Solid circle
98 New York city
100 Polo's place
102 Bk. convenience
104 — -wop
107 Singer Sheena
109 Literary pseudonym
110 Bright inventor?
111 Dictator
112 Pyramus' paramour
113 Move like 51 Across
114 "Archie" character
117 Push-button predecessor
119 Envelop
121 Schipa or Jackson
122 Up on
124 Flatten a fly
125 Kedrova of "Zorba the Greek"
126 Runner Zatopek
129 Record abbr.
130 Smith or Foster
132 Novelist Kesey
133 Vein contents

ANSWER ON PAGE D7

Exhibit on rockscapes, a fund-raiser for La Mesa Dam and false rumors

(From page D1)

of friends, relatives and acquaintances and those of Rockwell, Greenbelt, a laundry shop and Yves Vincent (video rentals). There are so many numbers in my phone that whenever I want to text someone, half way down the list my thumb gets numb.

Isn't it funny that when the signal is weak, you look around trying to find the right spot or when texting, you move your arms up and down? I once observed this young girl who was half-dancing just to be able to get a clear signal. Some people opt to use earphones and they look funny while in the car or walking, talking to themselves. Now you can't distinguish the real loonies. These things are sort of running our lives, not to mention making us look funny.

The other day, I was thinking where I'd be and what I'd without a cell phone. It was like trying to remember where Rizal Theater and Alemar's were before Glorietta was constructed in that area. Was it due to the cell radiation or too many artificial sweeteners in my coffee? Whatever it was, this is what I remember. Like the third time I was in Cebu to attend a fashion show, the organizers, along with some designers and models, invited me to an after-show dinner. I really did not know them so I thought of talking about Cebu. After we ordered dinner, one model started to text on the phone and the others did the same. Everyone was texting and no one was conversing with each other. I thought it was rude for they would only stop to ask for water or food. I was amazed. So what did I do? I joined them.

What will they think of next? In other countries, they already have this phone with a monitor where you can see who you're talking to. That's scary! Of course, you wouldn't want to receive a call from your mom and have her see what you're doing. But despite all the complaints, I am glad that the technology is here to stay.

A fairy tale for the assertive woman. Since the '70s, women have been asserting themselves as equal partners of men. There was a time, however, when they could not work or speak out their thoughts, simply did household chores and were forced to wear even chastity belts.

GUESS who I am having for dinner? A scene from the movie "Hannibal"

Well, those times are long gone and we now have women leaders (think President **Gloria Macapagal Arroyo**).

I got an e-mail which I am sharing with you this week. And I am sure confident, beautiful, (loveless?) and strong women will enjoy this.

"Once upon a time, in a land far away, a beautiful, independent, self-assured princess happened upon a frog as she sat contemplating ecological issues on the shores of an unpolluted pond. The frog hopped on the princess' lap and said, 'Elegant lady, I was once a handsome prince until an evil witch cast a spell on me. One kiss from you, I will turn back into a young, buffed and handsome prince. Then we can marry and set up house in your castle, with my mother, where you can prepare my meals, wash my clothes, bear my children and will forever be grateful for doing so.

"That night dining on a lightly sautéed frog legs seasoned in a white wine and onion cream sauce, she chuckled to herself and thought, 'I don't f------g think so!'"

A masquerade to save the La Mesa Dam. Gina Lopez has always been one of the women I look up to. Her tireless efforts in helping the street children

EXHIBIT/ p.D7

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La Union	Saint
Angeles	Ange Holy
San Fernando	Pamp
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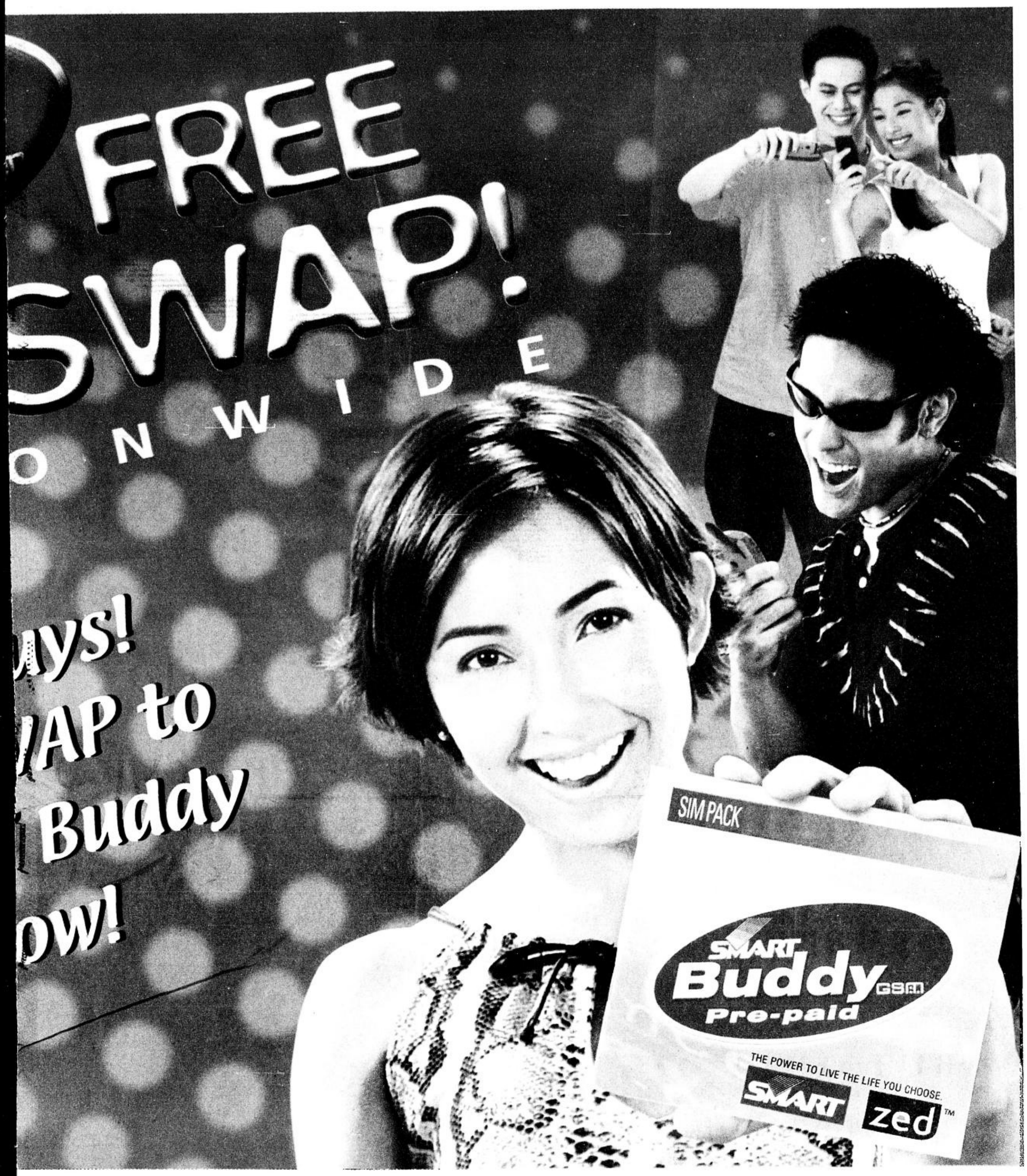

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OL ?	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	DURATION	VENUE
limah	UP JPIA	UP JPIA Week-Involution	Feb. 26 to Mar. 3	Business Ad Bldg.
Tafti	CBE	CBE Week	Feb. 26 to Mar. 2	Marian Quadrangle
eda College	Bedan Dance Theater	Bodywars	Feb. 26 to Mar. 2	St. Maur's Hall
			Mar. 3	Mike's Billard Hall
o De Manila University	COSA	COSA Night	Mar. 2	
son University	Chem. Eng. Society	Chem Engineering Week	Feb. 26 to Mar. 10	Campus
School	Brent School	Brent Nite	Feb. 24	Campus
guio	UP Biology Society	Quiz Show	Feb. 24.	Campus
Colleges	Management Society	Miss Luzon Colleges	Feb. 26 to Mar. 2	Campus
Louis College	Student Council	Graduation Ball	Feb. 28 to 30	Campus
			Mar. 2	
es University Foundation	AUF Community	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
Angel University	HAU Student Affairs	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
anga High School	Administration	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
ialolos	Accounting Dept.	Pre-Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
ry's College-Meycauayan	Marian Athletic Club	Pre-Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
ustin College	St. Agustin Cooperative	Pre-Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
State University	Sigma Nu	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
al Luzon Doctor's Hospital	Rotaract Club	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
lumban College	Student Council	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
n Polythecnic State College	Traders Multi Purpose Coop	Graduation Blitz	Mar. 1 to 30	Campus
s Banos	College of Agriculture	Sportsfest	Mar. 2 to 3	Campus

BRANCH	SCHOOL	ORGANIZATION	EVENT	DURATION	VENUE
Imus	De La Salle University	College of Philosophy	Philosophy Week	Feb. 27	Campus
		Student Council	Election of SC	Mar. 1 to 2	Campus
Batangas	De La Salle Lipa	Commerce Department	Business Mgmt Week	Feb. 26 to Mar. 2	Campus
Palawan	Palawan State University	Administration	Foundation Week	Mar. 1 to 4	Campus
San Pablo	San Pablo College	Administration	Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 28 to Mar. 3	Campus
Cabanatuan	Wesleyan University		JS Prom	Mar. 2	Campus
Cebu	University of San Carlos-Main Campus		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	University of San Carlos-Tech Center		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	University of the Visayas		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	University of Cebu		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Cebu Doctor's College		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	University of San Jose-Recoletos		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	University of the Philippines-Cebu		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Velez College		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Southwestern University		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	University of Southern Philippines		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Cebu Institute of Technology		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Salazar Institute of Technology		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
Dumaguete	Siliman University		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Foundation University		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Saint Paul College		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Central Visaya Polytecyhnic College		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
Tagbilaran	Divine World College		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	Philippine Maritime Institute		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus
	STI		Sim Swap Blitz	Feb. 26-Mar. 16	Campus

TRAVEL

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

In the joyous season of flowers

BY ELIZABETH LOLARGA

BAGUIO CITY—"Mama, why are the clouds so near?"

Gabriel, six-year-old son of teacher Becky Padilla and photographer Bullitt Marquez, popped this question as he tried to evade his mother's gentle prodding to eat his hotdog on a stick. The scene was the sprawling Scout Hill at Camp John Hay where the Market Encounter, the trade forum of the 6th Baguio Flower Festival (which ends today), has pitched its many tents.

"That's because we're on a mountain," Becky replied.

Also on that mountain were thousands of others from Metro Manila and surrounding provinces, who flocked to it to join this city's annual flower power party. There was a nice chill to boot, with temperatures dipping to as low as 9 degrees Centigrade last weekend. From closets or luggage emerged nifty scarves, knitted sweaters, thick jackets, woolen bonnets, warm socks and leather boots—and Session Road became a virtual fashion ramp.

The festival's first Flower Princess, eight-year-old Nicole Domingo, and her court of runners-up, Robyn Guba, Kylin Kyte Pineda, Trixie Paloga and Edythe Ramos, were seen hitching up their royal gowns and running in the fields, with their mothers giving chase.

Earlier, they were pictures of propriety when housing chief Mike Defensor formally opened the Market Encounter, followed by the St. Louis University Glee Club serenading the guests with "Paraiso" and "Love is the Answer."

TATTOOS on their cheeks, coconut bras on their chests

In one booth we saw what must have been the most expensive item in the bazaar—an antique earthen jar filled with the indigenous rice wine *tapuy* pegged at P20,000.

In another, the Ongpin-owned Highland Farms showcased its cut flowers (Reagan white, orange, dark and yellow mums, white and yellow "pingpongs," white and yellow spider flowers and anthuriums) at P100 a bundle, along with orange concentrates, Ponkan oranges, coffee beans and jams. These are the produce from its 85-hectare farm at Km 9, Ambuclao Road, Itogon, Benguet. From the same place one can purchase reasonably priced California wines (Cabernet Sauvignon, Fume Blanc, Chardonnay and Zinfandel) under the Mission View label.

The pocket gardens—entries to the landscaping contest—were sometimes cordoned off so the grass and flowers won't be trampled on. They served as popular backgrounds for people posing for souvenir shots.

There was one booth that gladdened our eyes because of the cheerful hues of yellow and yellow-orange marigolds. Each of Becky's children walked around with a plastic bag, inside which was a pot of cactus that they ardently promised to care for when they returned to Manila.

While Scout Hill was for happy shoppers, the sidewalks of Session Road, Harrison Road and part of Magsaysay Avenue were for oglers and spectators of the street dancing competition.

FLOATS on the street and thousands on the mountain

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO

And down the roads the dancers snaked, walked, hopped, twirled, marched, pirouetted or samba-ed.

There were senatorial candidates Winnie Monsod talking briskly into her cell phone and Franklin Drilon raising both chubby fists; majorettes with sunflowers attached to both ends of their batons; girls wearing cloth-petal skirts; and the drum and lyre corps sporting gossamer butterfly wings. Teachers moved alongside their competing students, hurrying them along as some stepped out of the line to tie their shoelaces. A giant caterpillar (actually humans underneath a length of green cloth) wove round and round.

And more: lasses with garlands, pots of flowers or mock strawberries on their heads and in their hair, and tendrils of washable tattoos on their cheeks or necks; xylophones on wheels; born-again Christians and Hare Krishna devotees striking tambourines and cymbals and beating drums; bands playing the theme from "Hawaii-Five-O" and "Cabaret," among others, to the cheers of the crowd.

Still more: children skipping through hula hoops; girls with anklets of everlasting flowers counting their beats aloud (a-one, a-two, a-three); dancers, each representing a Cordillera province, prancing around a Maypole; boys with coconut bras; the Benguet State University contingent paying tribute to ancient Egypt, the females dressed like Cleopatra and the males like pharaohs.

Bringing up the rear were the pony boys and girls from the Wright Park, Country Club and Green Valley, astride horses that peed and pooed as they cantered along the way.

After all the participants had gathered at the Melvin Jones Grandstand area, snarled traffic posed a nightmare for the festival planners. Imagine vehicles stuck on an incline, not moving for 30 minutes or more.

A great number chose to walk home. We were on the brink of doing so but were daunted by the effort, and instead sought warmth inside Biscotti, a café, deli and bakery with friendly orange walls and blue ceiling at Nevada Square on Loakan Road. Despite being a Baguio girl, proprietress Bardot Magtibay was all bundled up, her cap covering her ears. It was that cold. Still the staff served a seemingly endless stream of customers clamoring for the house brew, cappuccino or latte.

Sunday, the day of the floral float parade, saw us dealing with a pile of laundry. We caught the parade on the community TV channel and ventured out, still intimidated by the traffic, past lunchtime. One of our daughters told me she was trying to download into her cell phone the ringing tone of the festival theme, composed by Macario Foronda and inspired by the Ibaloni Bendian dance of celebration.

We headed for Scout Hill, partly on foot, for the launching of "Flowers of Baguio" by Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro, Vicente Roman Santos and the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. (published by National Bookstore and Anvil Publishing Inc.). There was a threat of rain, but it was just that—a threat.

Apart from its chapters on "Floral Diversity," "Parks and Gardens," "Floralscapes of Baguio Florists," "Rachy Cuna's Baguio Floralscapes," "From Benguet to Manila," and "Gardens in My Mind," the picture book has a helpful listing at the back on wholesale flower market vendors, florists, and members of the Baguio City Orchidarium and Ornamental Growers Multipurpose Cooperative.

Lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., who conceived of the Baguio Flower Festival and continues to chair it, self-deprecatingly told us that he might be remembered "as the one who fathered a lot of chaos."

"But then I'm just an instrument doing my bit for the city," he said.

"I didn't expect this to grow so fast," he confessed. "It has created monstrous traffic, but this is what a festival is all about. What I'm happy about is the cooperation extended by the community in planning, organizing and participating in various activities. For us to be able to sustain the festival, the community must be a part of it. The last thing we want is for the Baguio people to be mere spectators."

He cited one such activity—everybody was invited to come to Burnham Park to paint their own streamers and banners that were later used to decorate the city. It would have been simpler to hire an advertising company to produce 1,000 such banners. Instead, children, nuns, out-of-school youth and foreign visitors took up brushes and painted the white cloths.

"We were not after works of art but for the involvement of the people," Bangaoet said.

And yes, it has indeed been a genuine community effort—a *Maligayang Panagbenga*, a joyous season for blossoming.

NOT worries but pots of flowers on their heads

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Exhibit on rockscapes, a fund-raiser for La Mesa Dam and false rumors

(From page D2)

(Bantay Bata) and saving the La Mesa watershed are admirable and commendable. The La Mesa watershed is 2,700 hectares, of which 1,000 hectares are denuded. On Feb. 28, a dinner-dance benefit will be held in order to raise funds for the La Mesa watershed reforestation. It's called "Masquerade in Venice" and will feature dance exhibitions and with President Macapagal as its special guest. For inquiries, call 415-2272.

Mars out of orbit. Planet Mars is finally closing after 12 years. The owners still do not know what to do with the space whether to rent it out or open another bar. In the early '90s, the club took over from Faces disco and was best known for the place to be after 2 a.m. Although it will be missed I am sure that the talented and creative minds behind the place will be able to come up with something (think Orange).

Liquid ecstasy. Before you call the drug enforcers, listen up. If you ever thought of taking stimulants like "E" but were afraid to (we hear the damage to the brain is devastating), then this may be the next best thing. Agwa, made of Bolivian coca leaf (nope, dear, you can't snort it), Amazon guarana and Chinese ginseng is a potent cocktail that gives you energy, gets you drunk (it has 30 percent alcohol) and is meant to be taken like tequila. But it's hard to find and only a few bars have it. Try your luck. If your favorite bar does not have it, then don't go there. (Just kidding.)

"Hannibal" the movie. I recently watched the movie "Hannibal" and was in for a squirming time. The much anticipated sequel to "Silence of the Lambs" may not have all the suspense and **Jodie Foster** but it sure makes up for it with visual imagery. Especially the part where Hannibal (exquisitely portrayed by **Anthony Hopkins**) cooks up one of his favorite dishes and shares it with a willing guest. Warning: Don't eat anything before you see the movie!

10 false rumors. I recently read an article in a foreign magazine that I thought would be great to have in a Filipino setting. *Chismis*, as you all know, is our favorite pastime, from the barrioss, Forbes Park to the boardrooms of Ayala. So this week, we share with you these false rumors that may require some thought, but hopefully make your day.

- Judge **Hilario Davide** and **Miriam Santiago** are actually siblings. One was actually given love, attention and sustenance while the other was locked up in a dark and dingy room.
- There is no such thing as a gay Filipino athlete.

FALSE rumor that we are starting here: Judge Hilario Davide and Sen. Miriam Santiago are actually siblings.

- **Tessie Aquino-Oreta** was an adopted child. Her parents were vaudeville performers and her siblings are **Lito Calzado** and **Geleen Eugenio.**
- There's actually an invisible canopy at the Rockwell mall (outside where the restaurants are). In case it rains, you won't get wet. If you do, you're just imagining it.
- **Ricky Reyes** and **Jun Encarnacion** are actually the same person. They are so talented that they can change their hair and faces with ease.
- Former **President Estrada** is obesessed with **Jennifer Lopez** (the way he was spending for his mistresses turned out to be his downfall) because of her "Love Don't Cost a Thing."
- **Laarni Enriquez** never left the country. In fact, she's trying to revive her show-biz career and might replace **Rosa Rosal** on her show, "Damayan."
- **Annabelle Rama** used to teach at John Robert Powers.
- The 11 senators who did not open the second envelope are former members of the same choir. Their favorite songs were Handel's "Messiah," "Ave Maria" and "Sino Ang Baliw" with Miriam as soloist and Tessie Aquino Oreta as interpretative dancer.
- **Loi Ejercito**'s favorite song is "I've Never Been To Me." The bridge of the song goes (the one where Charlene speaks and emotes) "You know what paradise is, it's a lie..."

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

R	A	S	P		A	S	C	A	P		M	A	R	S	H		M	A	M	A
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OPENS TONIGHT
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Isang Natatanging Pag-ibig
Pinagbuklod ng Dunay, Pinagsama ng Tadhana, Pinaghiwalay ng Pag-ibig
directed by JOEL C. LAMANGAN, dgpi
TONIGHT AT 7:30 GMA

DO YOU TURN YOUR HEAD WHEN SOMEONE SHOUTS

"HEY FATSO!"?

If you think you're overweight, it's not just your ego you should worry about. Medical research has shown the various links between excess weight, and diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, gallstones, gout, sleep apnea, and certain forms of cancer.

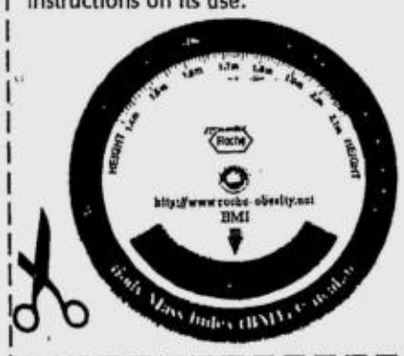
Most people don't understand that obesity is in itself a disease that needs to be cured. Medically, obesity is defined as an excess accumulation of body fat sufficient to endanger health. But because people come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, a weighing scale alone is not a good indication of whether you are overweight or not. A tall person can weigh 150 lbs and still be underweight, while a short person who weighs the same can be overweight.

To get an accurate assessment of your condition, you need to compute your Body Mass Index (BMI). Simply divide your weight in kilograms over your height in meter squared, and you will get your BMI. Using Asian standards, if your BMI is over 23, then you are overweight. You should consult your doctor and ask him or her for advice on a long-term weight management program. Do not resort to purchasing over-the-counter drugs. Advice from experts will help you achieve a healthy weight.

Your doctor can also tell you about a proven treatment for obesity that has benefited more than 8.5 million individuals around the world. This drug has been well-researched by a reputable pharmaceutical company and is backed by clinical studies with proven efficacy and safety for 30 years before it was marketed. This new treatment, which is a lipase inhibitor, cuts down the absorption of dietary fat in the body by up to 30%, allowing for radical improvements in weight loss and weight management programs. And unlike food supplements that claim to work but have no scientific basis, this drug was approved by the FDA in the US as well as the European Union, and our local BFAD (Bureau of Food and Drugs).

Weight management counsellors are also available by phone, from 9 am - 6 pm, Monday to Friday, to help you compute your BMI, and to give advice on how you can avail of a long term weight management program. If you're in Metro Manila, call **899-5955** and a counsellor will be on hand to answer your questions. (Outside Metro Manila, please dial **1-800-1-888-5955**).

FREE BMI CALCULATOR. If you would like to check your own Body Mass Index (BMI) fill out this coupon and send it by fax at **890-5012** or mail to Xenical Counselling Center, PO Box 3994, Makati Central Post Office, You can also send an e-mail containing all the information below, and send it to xenical@bcdpinpoint.com. We will send you your own BMI calculator, along with instructions on its use.



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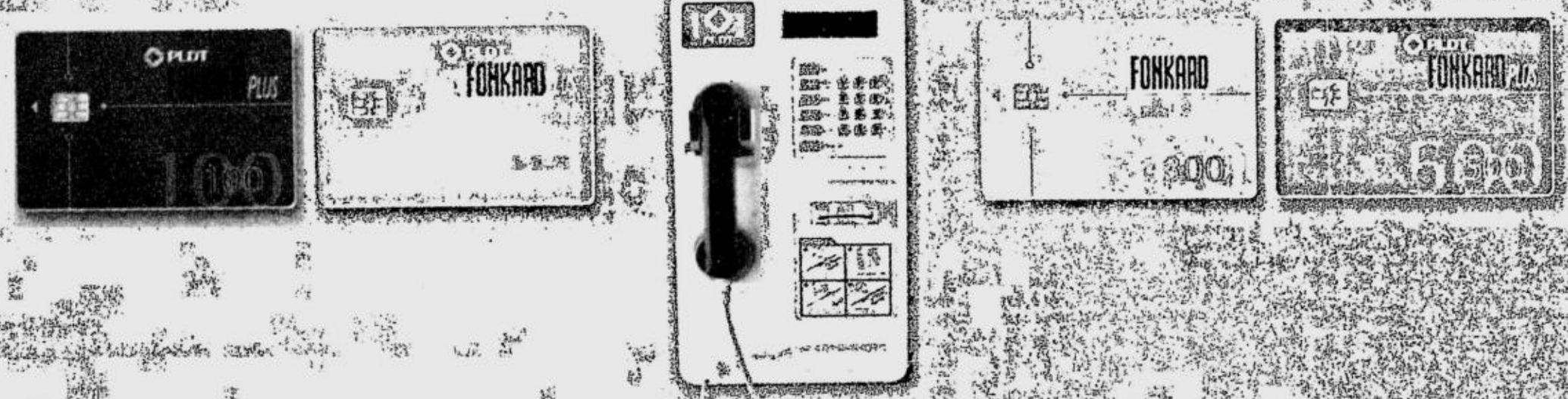

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Week Waker-uppers

Can the Manila Film Center be saved?

MIXED feelings greeted the plan of the Cultural Center of the Philippines to restore the controversial Manila Film Center (MFC) and transform it into the "Academy of the Performing Arts." The imeldific showcase of **Imelda Marcos'** extravagance and folly has lain fallow since the 1990 earthquake when it was condemned and declared unfit for use and occupancy. Since then, it has receded from memory, occasionally grabbing tabloid attention when seances are held there to appease, it is said, the spirits of construction workers who allegedly died during the terrible cave-in in 1981 when Marcos rushed its construction with tragic consequences.

The Department of Public Works and Highways has recently declared the building structurally sound, and CCP president **Armita Rufino** hopes to raise funds for its renovation. She will unveil a marker on Feb. 28, Ash Wednesday, after which a Mass and a blessing will be held. The significance of the day and the ritual is clear to everyone. As **Ed Cabagnot**, head of the CCP Film Division, said, "The unveiling of the marker is dedicated to all the souls who built it (MFC)."

Of course, some feel that the CCP should just let the MFC crumble so that its ruins can be a historical testimony to the fatal inanity of a woman who had dreamed of establishing the Cannes Film Festival of Asia, as she and her lap dogs once described the Manila International Film Festival which the MFC was supposed to house.

Some, however, feel that blighted as its history might have been, the MFC should be saved and used for redeeming purposes, such as the promotion of cinema and the other arts. As Baguio City-based writer **Frank Cimatu** said, "Let's open up that b---h and get on with our lives."

Randy David joins ABS-CBN

RANDY David will host tonight's special documentary on the 1986 Edsa revolution on ABS-CBN. The show takes on special significance since the 15th anniversary of the uprising takes place a little more than a month after Edsa II. It is produced by **Patrick Paez**, the brains behind "The Correspondents," and written by **Ed Lingao**.

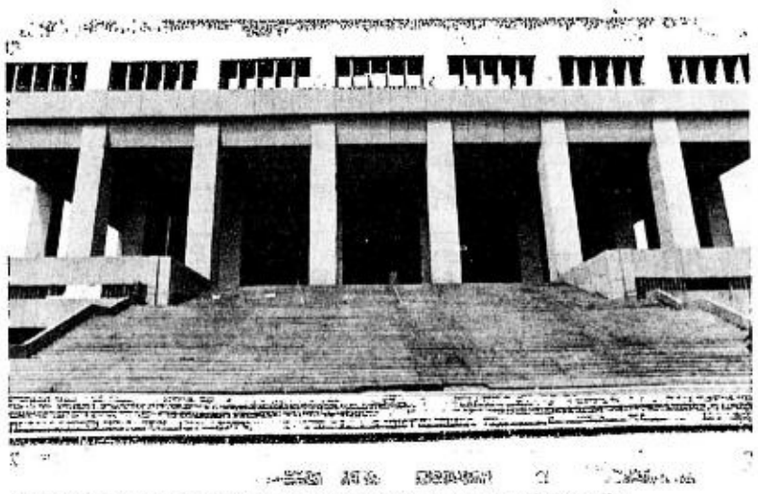
RANDY DAVID. An egghead in the idiot box

Sources at ABS-CBN say it won't be the last time for David to host a show in the network. The special is said to pave the way for bigger things, like his own public affairs show.

The special also reportedly signals a change of guard at the news and public affairs division.

'Rent' takes Singapore

THE MANILA production of "Rent" has become the top musical in Singapore. The production is hosted by the Singapore Repertory Theater and is running at the Victoria Theater until March 3.



THE MANILA Film Center: A ghost of its former self, literally

According to **Toots Tolentino**, the Singapore staging is more faithful than the original Manila production to the play's New York setting. "A mix of metal and steel with TV monitors embedded on gray wall with graffiti serves as backdrop. On one side is a two-tier mini-stage where the band plays. Across is a stylized metal sculpture that serves various purposes (at one point, it becomes a Christmas tree). On center are tables and chairs that serve as main props that can be easily carried in and out."

Except for certain changes, the production retains much of its Manila cast. **Calvin Millado** and **JM Rodriguez** reprise their roles as Roger Davis and Mark Cohen, who struggle with paying their overdue rent in the face of contemporary problems such as casual sex, drugs, homosexuality, lesbianism and AIDS. Playing the role of their landlord is Portuguese-Chinese Singaporean **Brendon Marc Fernandez**, who holds his own out against the Filipinos. Also a standout is **Jake Macapagal**, who has performed in the European stage; he plays the transvestite Angel Dumot Schunard to remarkable effect. Tolentino calls Macapagal "a revelation."

'Happy mistake'

SEN. **Francisco Tatad's** infamous motion for the Senate to vote on the opening of the celebrated second envelope before Chief Justice **Hilario Davide Jr.** could rule on the matter during the impeachment trial was a mistake, but a "happy" one, Msgr. **Socrates Villegas** said.

"We have Kit Tatad's mistake to thank for what happened next," said the spokesman of Manila Archbishop **Jaime Cardinal Sin.** "Next" of course was the people power revolt that massed at Edsa at the beck and call of Cardinal Sin after the Senate vote on Jan. 16 and toppled President **Joseph Estrada** on Jan. 20.

JM RODRIGUEZ and Calvin Millado in "Rent" in Singapore

"In theology," Villegas added, "we call his mistake a happy mistake."

Tatad and Davide crossed paths on Feb. 17 at the Solidaridad Bookshop in Ermita where **Nick Joaquin** and **F. Sionil Jose** hosted a book-signing for "Mass for the Death of an Enemy," the latest novel of "Renato Madrid," in real life, Cebu sgr. **Rodolfo Villanueva.** Tatad and Villanueva were colleagues at UST's school paper, The Varsitarian, in the 1960s.

Guests saw Tatad and Davide exchange pleasantries. Tatad was left to himself after that, although Jose kept him company. Earlier, when the Varsitarian published a postscript to the Tatad debacle titled "On the Wrong Side of History, Again," Jose admonished a staffer, "*Maawa naman kayo kay* Kit."

'Tuhog' reaches theaters

DON'T fail to watch "Tuhog." Directed by **Jeffrey Jeturian** and written by **Armando Lao**, the movie had been set for release next month, but "Mother" **Lily Monteverde**, the mercurial dowager of Regal Films, decided at the last minute to show it ahead of schedule. Without fanfare and publicity, the movie would be hard-pressed to deliver in the box office.

Too bad because "Tuhog" is one of the most exciting Filipino movies to have come lately. It is a movie within a movie and shows how the commercialism of cinema trivializes human tragedies. All of the Tagalog movie clichés are here: the exoticism, the campy nudity, the special effects, the outrageous attempt at suspense, the incredible plot twist and the ride to the sunset.

The cast is a good example of ensemble acting. As the mother and daughter abused by a tyrannical patriarch, **Irma Adlawan** and **Ina Raymundo** are harrowing. As the actresses who portray them onscreen, **Jaclyn Jose** and **Klaudia Koronel** are riproaring.

"Tuhog" got a B from the Film Ratings Board, which entitles it to a tax rebate for its quality and originality.

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CENTURY IMPERIAL PALACE SUITES QUEZON CITY — 5% discount on banquet rates*; 35% discount on published room rates with free breakfast

DISCOVERY Suites — 5% discount on banquet rates

Dusit Hotel Nikko — 5% discount on all banquet rates for a minimum charge of P50,000*

HOTEL REMBRANDT — 5% discount for weddings, seminars, debut & other social functions

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Laguna — 5% discount on food bill only

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MANDARIN ORIENTAL MANILA — 5% discount on banquet rates; Corkage fee waived for 5 bottles of wine; 70% discount on room accomodation if booking is paid in full 45 days before the event*

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MALBAGO BLUEWATER BEACH RESORT — Room for only $90 with breakfast; 1-hour use kayak; Free massage for 15 mins.

PEKING GARDEN — Free P500 gift certificate

Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort CEBU, PHILIPPINES — Complimentary 1 bottle of wine*; Complimentary gift certificate for two (2) persons for a buffet at the Garden Patio*

TAMBALI — 20% discount on published room rates; 10% discount on food & alcoholic drinks

THE HERITAGE — 5% discount on food & beverage bill for functions worth P100,000 to P199,999; 10% discount on food & beverage bill for functions worth P200,000 and above

the little gym — 10% discount for all birthday packages and programs*

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL — 5% discount on food & beverage bill at a minimum P400/head; 10% discount on room rental; 1 free overnight stay for a minimum banquet bill of P30,000

THE WESTIN PHILIPPINE PLAZA — 5% discount on banquet or catering services*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0183, Series of 2001

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X-MEN BATTLEGUIDE

THE MOBILE GAME

VIA INFOTEXT

Are you a mutant? What are your amazing superhuman powers? Find out by playing Globe Handyphone's X-MEN: The Mobile Game via Infotext. Discover your hidden mutant abilities and train under Professor Xavier. Then compete against other mutants to improve your skills and powers.

The future of the world is in your hands!

When playing and typing in the commands remember that:

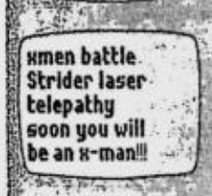
- All messages begin with **xmen**
- Each word or abbreviation must be separated by a space.
- It does not matter if you write in UPPER or lower case. Exceptions to this are code names of other players.
- Every message must be sent to the server at the following number: **2324**
- Two first characters of each game command suffice when the player sends messages. An exception to this is the command XMEN and the code names of other players.

BATTLE COMMANDS

To join the school for the first time, key-in: **xmen** and send to **2324**.

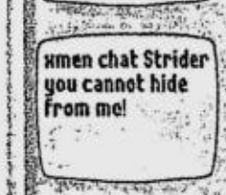
Creating your character, key-in: **xmen [code name] [birth date/mm.dd.yyyy]** and send to **2324**.

To practice a duel, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.



To practice a duel with your friend / against bitter enemy, key-in: **xmen battle [name/phone number] [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.

To respond to a duel challenge, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.

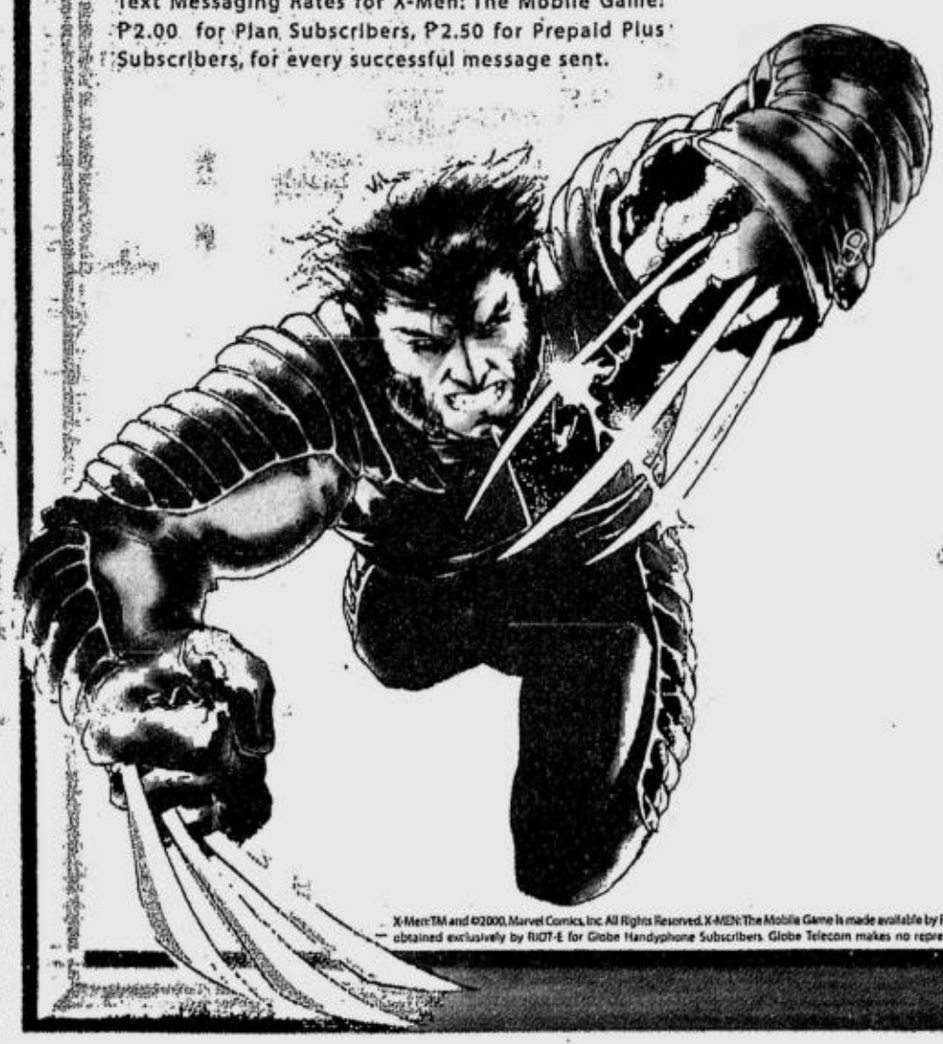


To chat with another player, key-in: **xmen chat [code name] [message]** and send to **2324**.

OTHER COMMANDS:

- To check the information on your own game character, key-in: **xmen stats** and send to **2324.**
- To take a break from the game, key-in: **xmen off** and send to **2324.**
- To resume the game, key-in: **xmen on** or **xmen battle** and send to **2324.**
- To quit the game, key-in: **xmen quit** and send to **2324.**
- For general instructions, key-in: **xmen help** and send to **2324**
- To know more about a certain command, key-in: **xmen help [command]** and send to **2324.**
- To know the overview of the game, key-in: **xmen idea** and send to **2324.**

Text Messaging Rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game:
₱2.00 for Plan Subscribers, ₱2.50 for Prepaid Plus Subscribers, for every successful message sent.



VIA WAP

Get ready to save the world from the Magneto and his evil Brotherhood of Mutants. In this WAP version of X-Men: The Mobile Game, you take on the role of Professor Xavier, leader of the X-Men. Your task: fight Magneto's troops who have already taken over cities around the globe. Send your team to these cities and free them from the clutches of those malevolent mutants.

Here's how to get started on the X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:

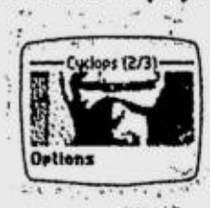
1. If you're a first time WAP-user, key-in the keyword of your phone type and send it to **2333**. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. The keywords are: <nokiawap> for Nokia 7110 and 6210, <siemenswap> for Siemens M35i, <ericssonwap> for EricssonR320s, <motorolawap> for Motorola T2288.

2. If your WAP handset is already configured, go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.

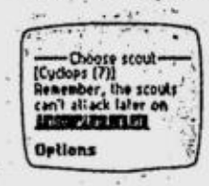
3. You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

4. Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Find and click on XMEN under the New Sites and Games Category and WAP away.

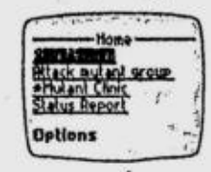
Here's how to play X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:



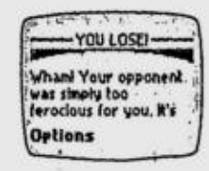
STARTING THE MISSION: Click on **Start new mission** on the main menu. To start a mission, pick one city out of three alternatives. After you have chosen the city, you can either send a scout or make an attack plan.



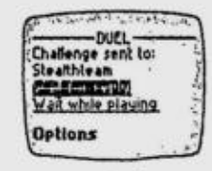
SENDING A SCOUT: To collect more information about your opponents in the chosen city you can send a scout. Do this by clicking on **Send a scout**. Each scout that is sent brings back information on one of the opponent's team members; name, location, and mutant ability level. This information should help you to make your attack plan. The scout, however, cannot be used in combat.



ENEMY: An attack plan is made by clicking on **Make attack plan**. You are presented with pictures of the specific targets. The pictures help you to assign the targets according to your team members' special skills. When a mutant for each target is chosen, click **Launch attack** and that will start the attack.



MISSION RESULTS: After every mission, you are informed of the result of the battle and of your team members' new mutation values. If the mission was successful, you can move on to the next city. If not, the mission has to be started over. The second time around is easier, since you now know how the specific targets affect team members' skill levels.



DUEL WITH OTHER MUTANT GROUPS: Challenge another team to a duel by clicking on the link **Duel**. Then key-in the name of the mutant group you want to challenge or battle a group from a random list of players. The challenge is then forwarded to the opponent assuming he or she is currently active in the game.

STATUS REPORT: Click on **Status report** and get info on your mutant group, including your group name, current game level, number of missions completed and duels fought (victories/losses/total amount of duels). The report also tells the number of missions and duels required for moving up one level.

INSTRUCTIONS: Get the complete instructions for the game by clicking **Instructions** on the main page or log on to Globe's website at http://www.globe.com.ph.

WAP rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game:

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Off-Peak Hours	₱ 3.00	₱ 3.00	₱ 2.00	₱ 2.00	₱ 2.00	₱ 3.00

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PEOPLE POWER I & II

A sense of déjà vu?

SONNY GUEVARRA, Account Manager
SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH
ARIES ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor

The youth read the text on the wall

BY PAOLO BENIGNO AQUINO IV

ON THE NIGHT the 11-10 verdict was decided, I had just come home from my midterms and was having a late dinner. I arrived just in time to hear Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago's spiel on why she would vote no. A feeling of impending disaster filled my gut, but I was hopeful that our senators would not allow a grave injustice to occur. As the senators gave their final votes, the whole nation counted silently the ``yeas" and the ``nays" that would trigger the following days. And when finally the verdict was passed, I felt a profound mix of sadness, disappointment and anger. My parents felt the same—my mother was crying and my father was in a state of shock.

My phone started to ring. Text messages and calls came one after the other, all asking the same thing, "What do we do now?" I didn't have an answer. All I could say was, "I'm sure something will happen. I don't know what, but just wait, something will." To myself I said, "Something had to."

Less than 30 minutes after the verdict, I received a call to attend a meeting of personalities involved in the movement for the resignation of Estrada. As I entered the room where the meeting was to be held, the atmosphere felt more like a support group for victims of heinous crimes. In a sense, it was true, we all fell that a great injustice had been perpetrated against us and the Filipino people.

It was a moment of shared grief and a moment to find strength in friends and comrades. Everyone was either down or angry—two emotions that would fuel the first night of People Power II.

Ten minutes into the meeting, we received word that there would be a noise barrage on Katipunan at 11 p.m. Everyone wanted to go out and join the noise barrage. We postponed our meeting and started off towards Katipunan. At 15 minutes before 11, the stretch of Katipunan from Ateneo to the Dela Strada Church was empty except for a handful of residents, even fewer nuns in front of Kentucky Fried Chicken and around four or five cars honking their horns to the tune of "Erap resign." I was the fifth car.

Did it matter that at that time, there

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MESSAGES

WE LOOK back to the events of 1986 with pride and jubilation as we look forward to the days ahead with burning faith and determination to do more for the entire Filipino nation.

That is the spirit spawned by our Edsa experience some fifteen years back. We remember to this day how the supreme sacrifice of one man—Ninoy Aquino—cracked open a dam that let loose the flood of patriotism, of idealism, of the need for radical changes in society.

Edsa Dos, on the other hand, manifested the ideals of the first Edsa. It concretized the demand of our people for good governance and accountability in public service. Edsa Dos was like a cry in the wilderness which crescendoed to a deafening roar for social change.

During those twin moments of glory, we took stock of our national dignity under the watchful eyes of the world community. People Power, to many people here and the world over, remains a phenomenon. To those of us who were there and even those who were one with us in spirit, it is a feeling we should keep aflame through vigilance and active participation in the task of nation-building.

And so, today, as we proceed with the "healing" of our land, we join each other in prayer that we move on... on with our lofty dreams, on with our noble aspirations, on with our hopes for a Philippines our children can be proud of!

Congratulations to the Filipino people!
Mabuhay tayong lahat!

ALBERTO G. ROMULO
Chairman
Edsa People Power Commission

TODAY, 15 years after Edsa I, we rejoice in thanksgiving to our great Lord Almighty through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, for having bestowed upon this beloved nation at the dawn of a new millennium, a hope for genuine change and reform. We find ourselves at another crossroad of opportunity to build on errors of the past and truly live out the values and ideals of the spirit of Edsa.

We look back with endeared remembrance, and for those of us privileged to live through it, anxiously commemorate the birth and triumph of People Power, borne out of the martyrdom of a great man who quenched for principled politics – Ninoy Aquino, which matured over three long years until its glorious fruit in 1986. We are also heartened to celebrate the victorious reclamation of People Power in Edsa II, which has reaffirmed that famous assertion of our beloved hero that *the Filipino is Worth Dying For*! May our nation's unquenched thirst for truth, justice and good governance be a clarion call for continuing vigilance and a warning to those who seek public office for purposes other than love of country. Never again as a people shall we fall for political chicanery... people who verbalize principles of truth, teachings of our faith, and the articles of law, but betray its very heart and spirit.

Let no man ever question as well, that the true commission to institutionalize Edsa lies not in an office, but in the hearts and minds of our people. Nor let any man ridicule once again the capability of People Power in solidarity fighting for a noble and just cause, for there lies the difference between Edsa II and mere "mob rule." Let us not degrade the essence of genuine People Power with petty political bickering but rather enhance it to full bloom with constructive and genuine people empowerment.

Finally, for those of us who claim our right to recognition for our particular contribution to either Edsa I or II, let us not think too highly of our roles in particular but rather be thankful for seeing the light to act as one with the majority of our people. If we do not falter in this notion, then in our humility we shall certainly earn the respect of our people and cause their trust in our sincerity of purpose.

May the Good Lord of Righteousness extend to our people His greater blessings of peace and prosperity, and guide our third People Power president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo towards the successful materialization of her faith and vision for this truly blessed country.

Mabuhay ang People Power! *Mabuhay and diwa ng* Edsa!

CHRISTOPHER L. CARRION
Executive Director
15th Edsa I People Power Anniversary

God's hand in People Power

Shared by Nene Pimentel at the Loyola School of Theology, Ateneo de Manila University, Feb. 7, 2001

TO BELIEVERS like me, the presence of God in People Power 2 at Edsa cannot be disputed. People Power 2 resulted in the peaceful ouster of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada on Jan. 20, 2001.

It was probably the only instance in history where a head of state duly elected by an overwhelming mandate was forced to give up his presidency without a coup d'etat being staged, without a revolution being waged, without a shot being fired or without a drop of blood being shed. If the hand of God was not there, it would be difficult to find it elsewhere.

In my own life in politics, in instances too numerous to mention, I have seen God's guiding hand. To cite an instance, I believe that the Good Lord made the paths of Estrada and mine cross when he and I were elected as senators in 1987 in the aftermath of People Power 1 in February 1986.

Poles apart

Although poles apart in political philosophy, Estrada and I became friends, not really close but sufficiently civil, in the Senate. By sheer force of its limited membership, the Senate invariably throws every one of its 24 members into close contact with one another for the six years of our senatorial term of office.

So it was that we became *compadres* when he asked me to be a sponsor to the wedding of his son, Jinggoy Estrada, while we were senators in 1989. I returned the compliment when I asked him to be a wedding sponsor to Koko, my son, last year when he had already been elected president and I had been returned to the Senate as a candidate in the slate of Estrada's in the 1998 elections.

I had joined Estrada's senatorial ticket—upon his urgings—in the honest belief that Estrada meant his pro-poor campaign slogans.

Soon after our election in 1998, he as president, and I, as a senator, I started to have misgivings regarding the sincerity of his purpose in government. I began to see warning signs that all would not be well with his presidency. Among the first tell-tale signs of the impending doom of his presidency was his cynically coarse attempt to justify certain unmeritorious appointments that he had made. In answer to the critics who had questioned the propriety of some of his presidential appointments, he replied "weather-weather *lang 'yan.*" This was, of course, a play on words that told his critics "you wait until you are President, then you can do what you want as I am doing what I want."

Perilous philosophy

His retort was a good mass media sound byte in Tagalog but it expressed a perilous political philosophy that meant that as the President, he felt he could do what he wanted regardless of what the law said.

In addition, I noticed that his mistresses had multiplied contrary to what he had tried to lead us to believe—that they were a thing of the past. Keeping mistresses cost money which the legitimate emoluments of the presidency could never sustain and which could only, therefore, be satisfied with the dirty money of scheming opportunists and confabulating cronies who were constantly oiling their way into his confidence. With the proliferation of mistresses and their predilection for the ostentatious display of their wealth of dubious origins, the road of the Estrada presidency to ruin was inevitable.

Role in the unraveling

In any event, my reelection to the Senate and Estrada's election to the presidency at the same time look to me like the good Lord had wanted me back in the Senate so that I could play a role in the ultimate unraveling of his presidency.

Without my asking for it, my colleagues in the Senate chose me to head the Blue Ribbon Committee. The committee, as you know, is tasked with investigating official wrongdoing. Two years and a half into my stint as head of the Blue Ribbon Committee, where I had previously investigated and recommended the prosecution of a former president, several cabinet members and a slew of generals who had run afoul with the law, the roguish governor of Ilocos Sur, Luis Singson, denounced Estrada as a corrupt and venal president. Backed up by witnesses and documentary evidences, his charges eventually found their way to the Blue Ribbon Committee for investigation.

From Oct. 10, 2000, I conducted daily and public hearings on the governor's charges that were covered by mass media. I tried to be as fair as possible, giving no inkling as to whether or not I believed or disbelieved the governor's charges.

Serious evidence

The evidence against the President, however, was serious enough to prod the President's political enemies in the House of Representatives to file impeachment charges against him.

By early November 2000, it was clear that the House impeachment charges would soon be forwarded to the Senate for trial as mandated by the Constitution.

In the meantime, people were taking to the streets to call for the resignation of Estrada. Their numbers were increasing and their voices were becoming more strident by the day.

Senate reorganization

Adding to the heated political atmosphere, the Senate president, Franklin Drilon, decided to show common cause with the demonstrators. Senator Drilon's defection from the ranks of the Senate majority supportive of Estrada upset the balance of forces in the chamber. Then, Senators Jaworski, Coseteng and Revilla who were also previously identified as supporters of the President resigned from the majority coalition in the Senate, thereby reducing their numbers and setting the stage for the reorganization of the Senate leadership.

In the event, Sen. Sergio Osmeña III started a move to get me elected as the Senate president. Senators Jaworski, Coseteng and Revilla got into the bandwagon and so did eight Senators who were Estrada partisans.

To make a long story short, I got elected president of the Senate without my entering into any compromise with Estrada or with the then vice president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who had earlier thrown her support for the demonstrators seeking the resignation of Estrada.

If one were to use the logic of the world, I cannot see how I, as the only PDP Laban Senator in the upper chamber could ever become the Senate president under the prevailing circumstances. Thus, when I look back at the event, I see it as another manifestation of the Lord's hand that was creating a situation where, unworthy as I am, I would play a central role in the impeachment trial of Estrada.

I was elected the president of the senate on Nov. 13, 2000. In a matter of weeks, the impeachment trial of Estrada began.

Chief lieutenant

Pursuant to the Constitution, the Chief Justice presided over the impeachment trial of the President. And as president of the Senate, I would act as his chief lieutenant.

I did just that—acting as mother hen to the 20 other Senators (one--Sen. Robert Barbers--was then undergoing treatment in the United States and two other seats were vacant). Whenever a contentious issue would arise, I tried to vector the Senators into a consensus. My purpose was to prevent the chamber from breaking up into factions and reduce its effectiveness as the forum to handle the impeachment trial or worse, destroy the credibility of the Senate as an impeachment court so early in the proceedings.

But on the fateful day of Jan. 16, 2001, I could no longer prevent the happening of what we, Christians, might call a "*felix culpa*," a happy fault. The issue was whether or not we should open Envelope No. 2 that allegedly contained evidence incriminatory of Estrada.

Regrettable decision

I had suggested a caucus by the Senators in the confines of our conference room outside the glare of television klieg lights or photo news cameras before we decide on the issue publicly. But as fate would have, most of my colleagues did not want any conference or caucus in chambers. They wanted an open vote in front of the people in the session hall of the Senate. It was a decision that they would rue and regret to this very day.

Eleven of my colleagues voted to keep Envelope 2 closed. Nine senators voted to open it. After asking for the Lord's guidance, I voted with the losing side, raising our numbers to 10. We had lost the vote. 11 Senators by their vote kept the envelope closed but our 10 votes opened the eyes of the people to inadequacy of the impeachment device as an institution of government.

Four days after that historic vote, Estrada stepped down from office and Macapagal-Arroyo succeeded him as part President of the republic.

It might be good for us to discern what People Power 1 and 2 is all about. After we shall have done that, then we can proceed to how we can sustain it.

Search for justice

In my view, People Power 1 and 2 is about our people's direct search for justice when the institutions of government no longer sufficed to provide them a redress for their grievances.

In 1986, People Power 1 was an expression of popular outrage over the failure of Marcos' martial law government to curb abuses in the form of, among other things, graft and corruption, electoral cheating as in the 1986 presidential election, the torture of political prisoners, the jailing of perceived enemies of the state and the outright killing of political enemies of Marcos as in the case on Ninoy Aquino in 1983.

Fury against hedonism

This year's People Power 2 was likewise the explosion of popular fury – albeit peaceful – over the failure of Estrada's government particularly in curbing graft and corruption by

GOD'S HAND/ E7

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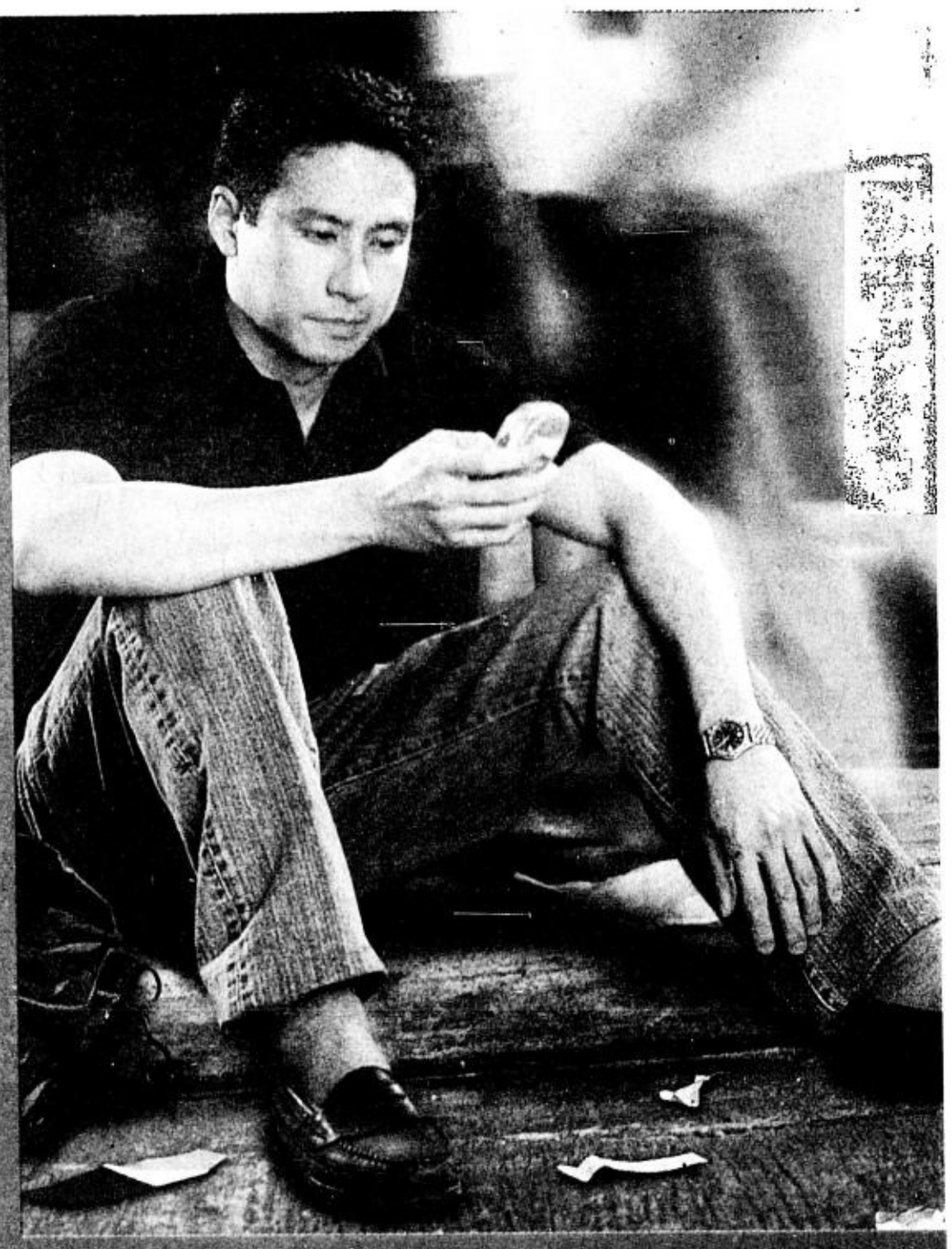

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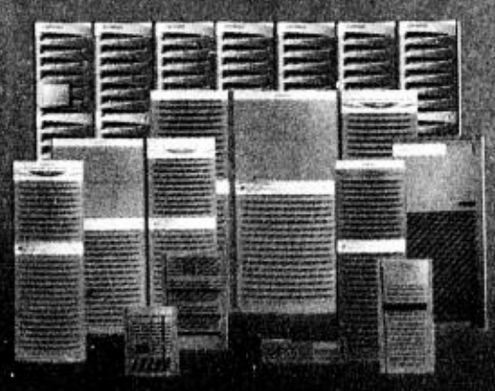

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Marami pang ibang daan.

Learn from history,
So we don't need
to go back
on the same road.

A message from this publication
and from Mindshare.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE
The cast of characters may have changed, but the spirit of Edsa remains. Top photo was taken on Edsa in 1986, facing what would be the Edsa Shrine. Bottom photo is also taken on Edsa from the Shrine, 15 years later and facing the People Power Monument (not seen)

DENNIS SABANGAN

The youth read . . . (From page E4)

was hardly anyone at Katipunan? Not for us. The cars honked their horns relentlessly. The nuns banged at their pots with reckless abandon and the residents who came out ceaselessly egged the incoming vehicles to honk their horns.

And as if they had heard a singular call to march to the streets, the people started to come out. By the designated time, the whole of Katipunan was filled. Residents in the neighboring areas came. Alumni of Ateneo flocked to the gates where the dorm residents came out in numbers. Cars stopped and joined the people in a collective voice of outrage. It was beautiful chaos.

The slogan was not carried for People Power 2001, but one of the slogans for People Power 1986 seemed to be very apt – *Tama Na! Sobra Na! Palitan Na!*

The feeling was collective. When I saw the number of people that came out in such a spontaneous manner and the level of intensity of their outrage, I sensed that something more was in store for the Filipino people. Everyone came out for a purpose that first night. We had to voice out our cry for justice. We would text, call, honk, bang, shout and scream if needed, as long as our message of indignation was expressed.

That first night and with the following nights to come, the people who spontaneously went to the streets would not be denied. And if bullets and truncheons had met us instead of the collective outburst of indignation, we would still have gone. And as I saw that the majority of faces that first night were young men like my own, screaming and shouting their collective cry for justice, I knew that whatever would happen, our country still had hope.

All over the country, students and young professionals were at the forefront of mass action. As far as a year back, sectors had branded my generation as hopelessly apathetic, and yet student leaders and youth organizers never gave up. We never quit and we weren't disappointed. The youth was the sleeping giant that injustice had awakened. The generation purportedly too lost within themselves answered the call of their countrymen and converted their detractors into believers.

The classroom of life called the students out. And on that first night, seeing the majority of people were my age or younger, I knew that these were special times for the youth of our country. It was special for those who had never joined a mass action and participated for the first time. It was special for those who only read about People Power and were experiencing it firsthand. It was special for all the student leaders and all the youth organizers who never stopped believing that the youth would answer the challenge for a better future. With People Power II, the youth once again solidified their role as the conscience of our society.

At 11:30, I went back to the meeting place to find that Tita Cory and the Cardinal had started the call to go to the Edsa Shrine. Some people remained at the meeting place to further map out what support they could provide. I left to go to Edsa.

It seemed as if all of the vehicles and the people walking the streets all headed towards Edsa. There were points where people congregated to continue the noise barrage, but you had the feeling that you would see these people the next day at the Shrine. My friend Serge, who was driving, had enough shirts for two days, a liter of water and some doughnuts if we got hungry. No one really knew what to expect at the Shrine, and no one, at that point, bothered too much about it. You just had to go.

On the way there, I started texting and calling all those who had texted and called earlier. My message: "Go to Edsa." Different groups of people lined the roads that led to Edsa that night—families straight out of bed, professionals still in their work attire, young people and old people, some wearing black, but all wearing their hearts and their indignation on their faces.

It had come to this. As we got closer and closer to Edsa, it was clear that there was no more turning back. President Estrada had once said, "*Huwag n'yo akong subukan.*" The Filipino people were now answering, "*Kami ang huwag na huwag mong susubukan.*"

And as we crossed to Ortigas, I noticed that our pace instinctively picked up. Our hearts beat stronger as we realized that we were again at Edsa. The months of struggle had come to a decisive crossroads. The Filipino people were again given the opportunity for yet another defining moment in their history as a people. We were again put to the test.

What would we do with our outrage and anger? What would we do when the process we chose to respect showed its true colors? What would we do when faced with a grave injustice that insulted not only our intelligence but also our integrity as a people?

On that first night, the Filipino people were faced with a choice—to accept injustice or to fight it. On that first night, people could've chosen to go to sleep, people could've chosen to turn the other way. People could've chosen to be quiet. But much more chose to go, instead, to the streets.

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15TH EDSA I ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS

February 25, Sunday

6:30 a.m. **Freedom Run**
Venue: Ninoy Aquino Monument, Ayala Ave., Makati to People Power Monument, Edsa corner White Plains

7:45 a.m. **Flag Raising Ceremony**
Venue: People Power Monument
Raising of the Phil. Flag: H.E. Pres. Gloria Arroyo assisted by Former Presidents Aquino and Ramos, Cardinal Sin, Chairpersons of the Celebration: DOF Sec. Alberto Romulo and Comm. Ramon del Rosario, Jr.
Lighting of the Freedom Flame
Short Program
Speech: H.E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

9 a.m. – onward **Government and People Consultation**
Venue: Edsa corner White Plains to Corinthian Garden gate: Tents for each Executive Department
(Public is urged to visit, consult)

9 a.m. – onward **DSWD Story Telling Tent**
A tent will be set up wherein people who have participated
at Edsa II can drop by to narrate and record their experience, donate some video footage, etc.

9 a.m. – onward **POEA Events**
Venue: POEA Building, Ortigas, corner Edsa
- Job Fair
- Free Medical and Dental Services
(Public is invited)

9 a.m. – onward **"Tatak Edsa" registration tents**
Venue: Along Edsa from People Power Monument up to Edsa Shrine
Registration of Edsa I participation and sale of souvenir items, T-shirts, etc.

8:30 – 11:30 **Sectoral Conferences**
Venue: La Salle Greenhills
(Attendance restricted by pre-arrangement requirement)

11:30 – 12:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

12:30 p.m. **Multisectoral Assembly for people's march to Edsa Shrine**
Assembly points: NGOs: Ortigas Avenue, in front of La Salle Greenhills

12:45 – 1:15 p.m. **March to Edsa Shrine**
Civil Contingent from La Salle Greenhills
Military/Police from Camp Aguinaldo to be led by
Former President FVR – Salubungan
(Public is invited for the entire afternoon and evening program)

1:30 – 2:15 p.m. **Reading of Sectoral Manifestos and presentation to H.E. President Gloria Arroyo**
Venue: Edsa Shrine

2:20 – 3:10 p.m. **Launching of the Unicef "Decade of Culture of Peace for Children"**
Venue: Edsa Shrine

Program:
National Anthem: Nolin Cabahug
Backgrounder: Edsa and World Peace: Ramon Pedrosa
Intro of Guest Speaker: Jose Concepcion
Guest Speaker: Pierre Marchand (President, Nobel Peace Laureates Foundation)
Symbolical Turnover of Decade of Peace by Marchand to Former Pres. Aquino, SOEF Founding chair Chris Carrion and SOEF vice chair Ping de Jesus

3:15 – 4:15 **Freedom and Peace Awarding Ceremonies for Edsa II**
Venue: Edsa Shrine
To present the trophy and citation to the awardees:
H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

4:15 – 4:30 **Marker for the unnamed Edsa heroes to be unveiled by H.E. Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Cardinal Sin**

4:30 – 5:30 **Eucharistic Celebration**
Venue: Edsa Shrine
Homily: H.E. Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, D.D.

5:30 **15th Edsa Anniversary Celebrations keynote speech: H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
(Immediately after the speech, for Edsa I: "Magkaisa" will be sung by the original artist Virna Lisa, while for Edsa II "Heal our Land" will be sung by Jamie Rivera. During the singing, helicopter will fly-by for confetti drop.)

7:30 p.m. **Cultural Presentation**
Venue: People Power Monument
Inspirational variety show featuring singers, bands, movie stars, artists and the awardees

9 p.m. **Fireworks Display**
Venue: People Power Monument

God's hand in People Power

(From page E5)

his cronies and members of his extended family. People Power 2 was also about indignation against the hedonistic lifestyle of Estrada that in the eyes of people knew no bounds. People were simply aghast, appalled and horrified that mansions fit for the Shah of Iran or the emperors of the Holy Roman empire were being built to house his mistresses while the squatters of Payatas die buried in their hovels by landslides of garbage.

Incidentally, I suppose that if Rome had television, radio, newspapers and cellphones when Nero fiddled as the city burned, he would have been ousted too by Roman people power.

In brief, the scandalous greed – unbridled, uncontrollable and insatiable – of a select few associated with the Estrada government who appeared to be untouchable even by the long arm of the law fueled the people's disenchantment that culminated in People Power 2.

Voting with their feet

The people had sought justice through the institutions of government, particularly through the constitutional device of impeachment, but it failed to provide a redress for their grievances.

The people, therefore, prayed in tears, voted with their feet and trooped to Edsa – the historic scene of People Power 1 – by the tens of thousands and provided themselves with the remedy that government institutions could not provide: they ousted the Estrada government.

No other people have done what our people had done in two people power demonstrations. And I doubt if any other people can duplicate the way we have sought justice for our grievances at Edsa on two occasions, 1986 and 2001, that wrote finish to governments that seemed impregnable by the standards of the world. I think we can justly claim that only the hand of God guiding our people made People Power 1 and 2 possible.

What, then, can we do to sustain the spirit of People Power?

The question is important because unlike fairy tales, in the real world, the victory of good over evil sometimes is so ephemeral and transitory that before we know it the forces of darkness will be upon us again, upsetting the cause of good governance.

Bantay brigades

I suggest that we can start by organizing "bantay brigades" in every barangay, municipality, city and province. If that is not feasible, then, maybe a bantay brigade in every parish.

Unlike Sodom and Gomorrah, I am certain that ten, twenty, thirty, fifty or a hundred people can always be found in any parish who are just and good and concerned about the well-being of others.

These good Samaritans in the parishes may get organized and be the nucleus of good governance. They can monitor the activities of local officialdom and call attention to any emerging wrongdoing and nip it in the bud before it gets worse.

From the parishes, the bantay brigades may be consolidated into larger groups that may cover the municipality, the city, the province, the region and eventually, the nation.

Love as motivating force

But, it may be asked, what will keep the bantay brigades going? Nothing less than love. Love of God, love of country, love of people and love that translates into serving others no matter what the cost because they are children of God made to his image and likeness. In a word, love of the eternal verities: freedom, justice and peace for our people and country.

Allow me to quote of a piece of writing I have read in the Internet which sounds apropos the personalities and the events we speak of:

"Happy endings, with victory going to the virtuous, are the staple of children's literature. We start with 'the wolf was killed and the granny was saved and they all lived happily ever after' and progress to the 'forces of darkness were defeated by the forces of light and peace was restored to Narnia."

"But in real life you can't be sure that good will conquer evil. Which is why, when it happens, we are all entitled to exult.

"What is most dangerous about (some) people (in government) is that they come to believe in their own lies. That is why they are so plausible, so persuasive. You find them still protesting their innocence even after they have been caught out.

Dishonest people pay for sins

"I like the idea of living in a country that still regards lying as a resigning offense. I like being able to show my children that, in the real world as well as in fairy stories, dishonest people sometimes pay for their sins. Life may be more complicated than Harry Poter or Narnia; but it is as satisfying in fact as it is in fiction to see the baddy vanquished in the end.

Mediplast calls for healing

THE KEY words were "no bloodshed," but the aftermath of the latest revolution spells an undeniable plan. It was nothing short of a miracle, but it was bittersweet the second time around. And it left the nation a nasty wound. One that would require stitches and healing, figuratively speaking.

In celebration of the first People Power, Mediplast, a trusted name when it comes to healing wounds, is doing its humble way to remind us to get our acts together. History tells us that such a political rift, if left unchecked, would develop into another scenario that would do more harm than good.

The message also calls for vigilance among the young people. Within the context of advocacy, Mediplast seeks to establish a rapport with the youth and gain their top-of-the-mind preference whenever the need arises.

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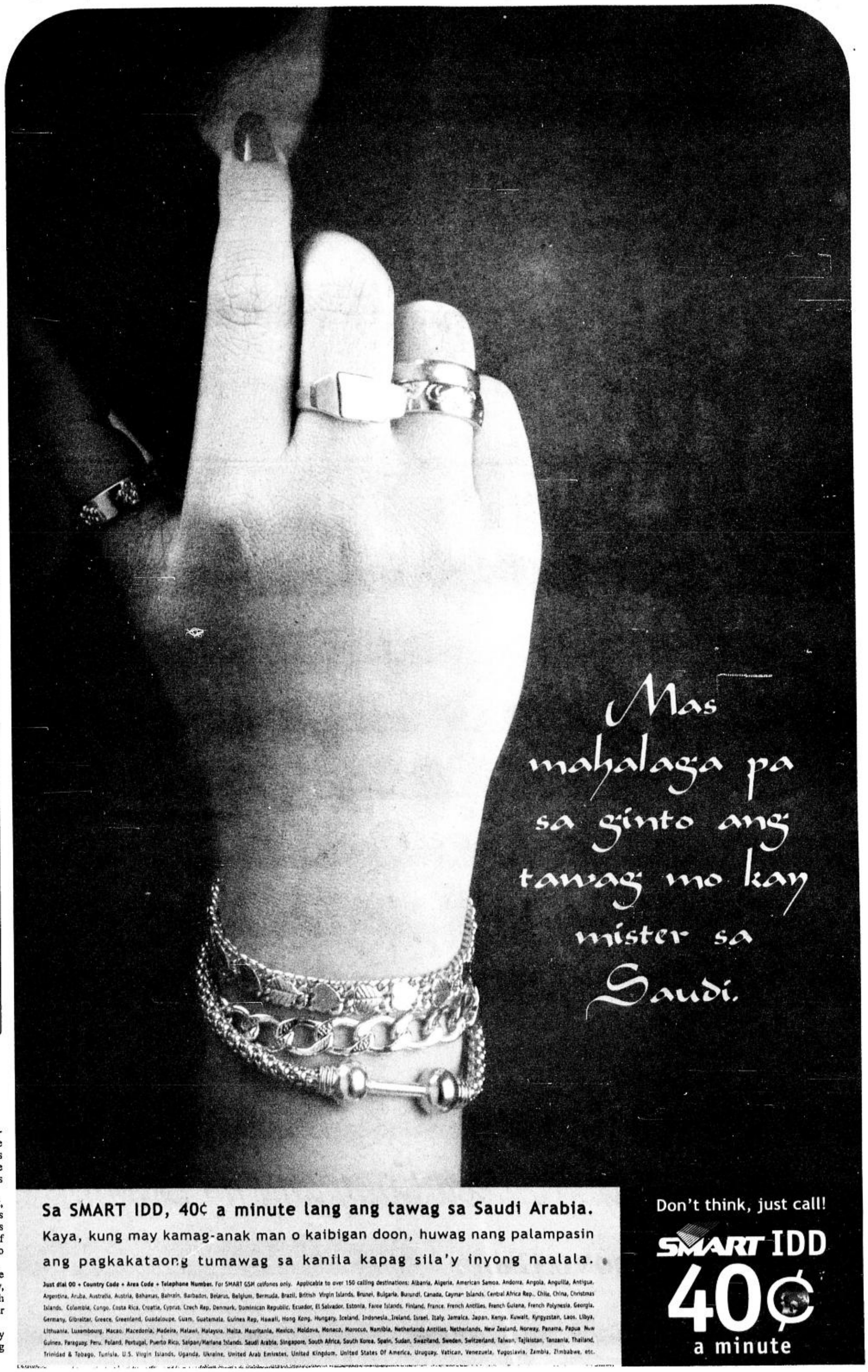

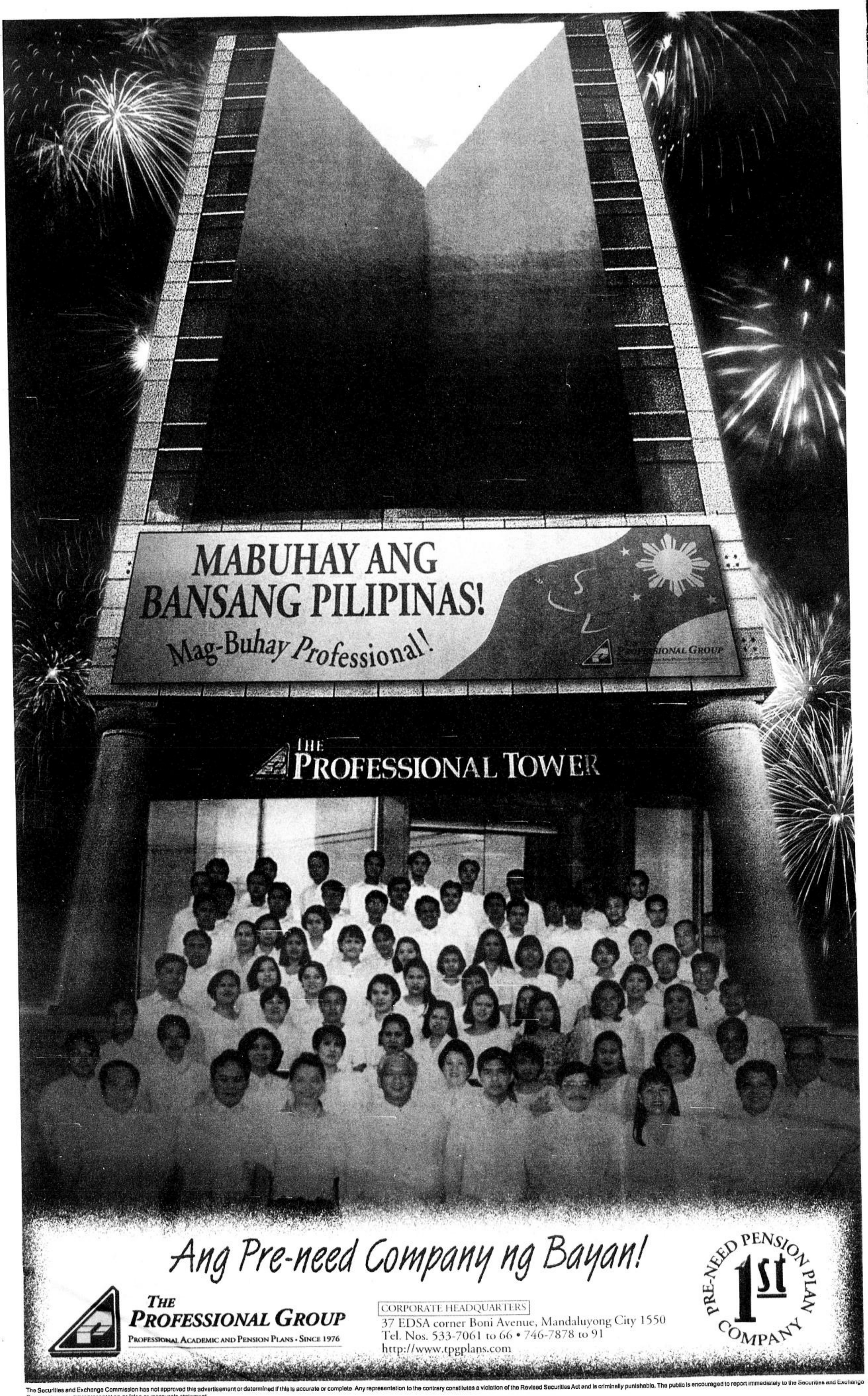

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

Weddings & Engagements

NEWLYWEDS Sheila and Dax Carlos

Cupid works his magic on longtime friends

BY DONNIE C. RAMIREZ

"I SERVED her iced tea and that literally broke the ice!"

Juan Antonio "Dax" Carlos was recounting the first time he met his new bride Sheila Marie Dizon. This was back in 1994 when Dax's father, lawyer Vicente Jacinto Carlos, was the secretary of Tourism and Sheila had just been crowned Bb. Pilipinas Tourism.

There was a reception at the Carlos residence at Dasmariñas Village and Sheila and the other Bb. Pilipinas winners like Charlene Gonzales were among the guests. (The Miss Universe Pageant was being held in Manila that year and Secretary Carlos was drumming up interest and sponsorships from the corporate sector.)

Dax and Sheila met again in Los Angeles when she and the other Bb. Pilipinas beauties were there to grace the Philippine Independence Day celebration in California. Dax escorted Sheila to most of the official functions, but he admits they were no more than just good friends then.

It wasn't until they found themselves together again in yet another tourism blitz, this time in Osaka, Japan, when their romance finally blossomed. Some friends, wanting to play cupid, brought them to a place called The Love Temple where young Japanese couples go to pray that they will get married to each other someday. That place must have worked its magic on Dax and Sheila because not long after, they started to go steady.

On Jan. 15, Dax and Sheila capped their six-year romance with an elegant wedding at the Santuario de San Antonio. Sheila wore an exquisite *panueloed terno* created by Danny Franco. All brides, they say, are beautiful and Sheila was easily one of the fairest of them all as she marched down the aisle in the arms of her father, businessman Demetrio Castro Dizon. Just as enchanting were the couple's good-looking mothers, Tina Torres-Carlos and Jessica Bañares-Dizon.

CUPID/ p.F3

DAX and Sheila seal their love with a kiss.

MITCH Carlos, Ezna Lancero, Juliet Lim, Peachy Sabino, Tetet Villanueva and Joanna Dizon

CHARLIE Cuna, Howard Vitas, Raymond Lacdao, Boey Cruz, Ralby Tambunting and Mark Dizon

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Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least two weeks before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

CHIONG-CHENG

Jehan M. Cheng, daughter of **Segundina M. Cheng**, will walk down the aisle with **Jhonathan Q. Chiong**, son of **Zenaida Q. Chiong**, on March 12 at the San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception follows at the Coconut Palace. The bride will wear a **Fred Quimat** creation.

DE JESUS-ENCARNACION

Joseph C. de Jesus, son of **Rolando** and **Regina de Jesus** of Bacolor, Pampanga, will exchange marriage vows with **Elena D. Encarnacion**, daughter of **Noel** and **Teresita Encarnacion**, of Barreto, Olongapo City, on Feb. 28 at San Raphael Church, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Reception will follow at the Holiday Inn Grand Ballroom, Clarkfield, Pampanga.

MANABAT-HUIDEM

Tom C. Manabat, son of **Francisco** and **Carmen Manabat**, tied the knot with **Jazzie C. Huidem**, daughter of **Jesus** and **Salvacion Huidem**, on Feb. 24 at the St. James the Great Parish, Ayala, Alabang.

The bride wore a gown designed by **Totoy Bayabo**.

YBIERNAS-CELIZ

Yvonne Alitatag Celiz, daughter of **Cristina Alitatag** and niece of **Felixberta Pinuela Celiz**, tied the knot with **John Vincent Paredes Ybiernas**, son of **Victoriano Suajico Ybiernas** and **Levy Paredes Ybiernas**, on Dec. 23 at the Sta. Teresita Church, Iloilo City.

Reception was held at Sunset Ballroom of Hotel del Rio, Iloilo City.

HERSON-SAHAGUN

Maryrose Sahagun wore a **Frederick Peralta** bridal gown made of satin duchess and mesh patterned gazar, embellished with faces and beads, when she exchanged vows with **Von Richard Herson** at St. James Basilica in Alabang on Jan. 11.

DOBLE-LLOBRERA

Gregorio L. Doble, son of Dr. **Tito** and **Linda Doble**, and **Leah Rose I. Llobrera**, daughter of engineer **Rodolfo** and **Leonor Llobrera**, tied the knot on Dec. 21 at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception followed at the ballroom of the Heritage Hotel.

The bride wore a gown designed by **Larry Espinosa**.

ILUSTRE-DAA

Sherwin M. Ilustre, son of Mr. and Ms **Ruben Ilustre** of Batangas City, married **Doreen M. Daa**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Fidel V. Daa** of Tacloban City, on Dec. 20 at Sto. Niño Parish Church, Tacloban City. Reception was held at the Baluarte Beach Resort. The couple will reside in Florida, USA.

CAPARROS-CHUA

Jojo Caparros, son of **Emeniano** (deceased) and **Editha Caparros**, wed **Marjorie Chua**, daughter of **Ramon Sr.** and **Mary Chua**, on Feb. 10 at the Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish Church, QC. Reception was held at the Peach Toppings & Noodle Restaurant.

CABUNGKAL-SABINO

Philippine Navy officer Ensign **Maynard S. Cabungcal**, son of **Teresita Sinoro vda. de Cabungcal** of Cagayan de Oro City, tied the knot with **Cherie Glo D. Sabino**, daughter of **Corazon Donato vda. de Sabino** of Laguna, on Dec. 9 at the Our Lady of the Pillar Parish, Alaminos, Laguna. The bride wore a Victorian-inspired ensemble in ivory silk shantung with corset top complementing the skirt encrusted with nacar beads, sequins, pearls and Swarovski rhinestones. A tiara highlighted the long, cascading illusion veil. **Chiva Siason** of San Pablo City designed and executed the gowns of the bride and entourage.

ODRA-PALMA GIL

Rizza Palma Gil, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Jorge Palma Gil**, recently tied the knot with **Jing Odra**, son of **Consolacion Odra**, at the Nuestra Señora delos Remedios Church in Malate, Manila.

She wore an oyster gray Thai silk gown designed by **Eric Pineda**. The gown featured a ruched silk tulle shrug sprinkled with Swarovski crystals in smoky gray and amethyst blue. The entire entourage wore pants and top ensembles in bluish-gray shantung silk. Eric also designed the groom's *piña* barong with a "*pechera*" pattern.

Reception followed at the Coconut Palace, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

ROLDAN DEBUT

Princess Jolibeth Penales Roldan, daughter of **Abet** and **Julie Roldan**, will celebrate her 18th birthday today at Prince Square Swimming Zone, Antipolo City. Princess is an HRM sophomore at Saint Paul College, Q.C.

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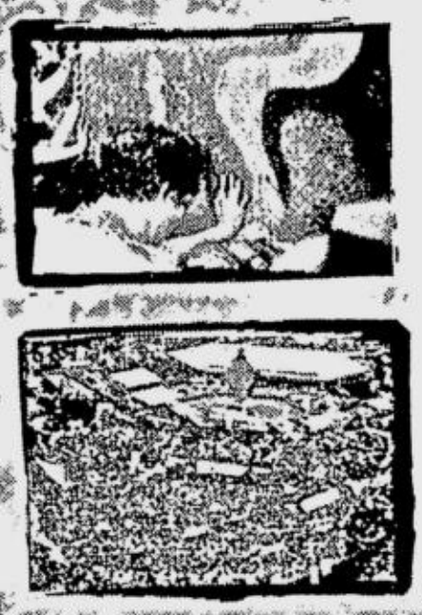
Have we truly learned the lessons of an epic revolt?



Once more EDSA has stood witness
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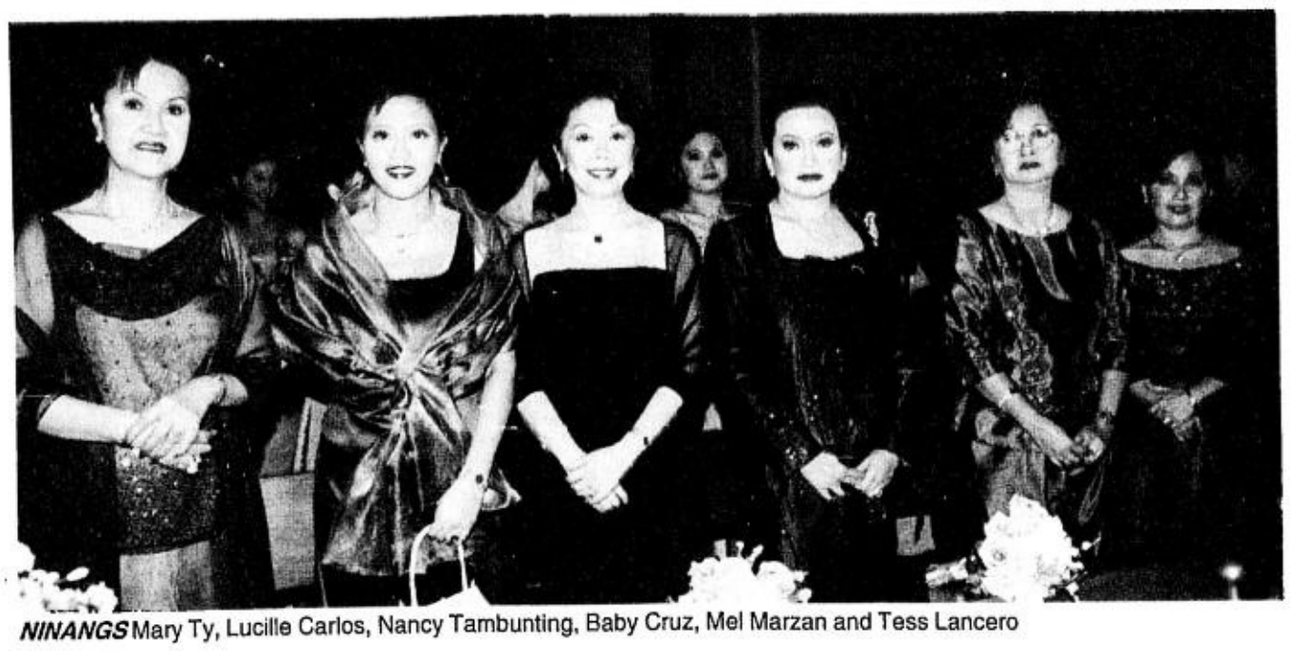


NINANGS Mary Ty, Lucille Carlos, Nancy Tambunting, Baby Cruz, Mel Marzan and Tess Lancero

NINONGS George Ty, Dr. Dante Morales, Tony Rufino, Renato Magadia, Mandy Punsalan and Chito Cobarrubias

MILA Drilon, Naty Golez, Gina de Venecia and Kristine Yang

Cupid works his magic on longtime friends

(From page F1)

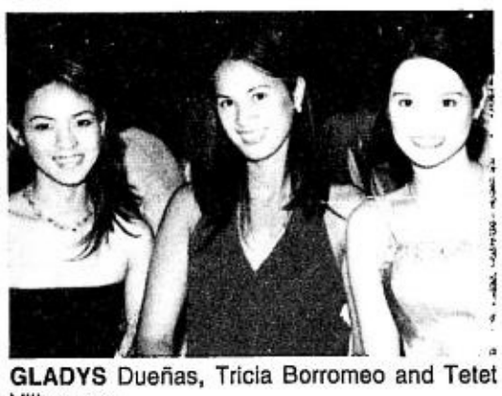
The nuptial Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, D.D., and the Rev. Fr. Daniel Allan Samonte. The principal sponsors were Metrobank chair George Ty and his wife Mary Ty, Dr. Dante Morales, the groom's aunts Lucille Carlos and Nancy Tambunting, restaurateur Antonio Rufino, Renato Magadia, hotelier Chito Cobarrubias, Jewelmer's Pacita "Baby" Cruz, Mandy Punzalan, Imelda Marzan and Tess Lancero. Best man was the groom's chum Boey Cruz and maid of honor was the bride's sister Joanna Dizon.

Rounding up the junior entourage were Ralby Tambunting, Mark Dizon and Antonio Manuel Torres (groomsmen); Michelle Carlos and Ezna Lancero (bridesmaids); Raymond Lacdao and Juliet Lim (candle); Howard Vitas and Peachy Sabino (veil); and Charlie and Tetet Villanueva (cord). The little attendants were Luis Recto, Yohann Miranda, Stefano Torres, Ella Garcia and Zoi Buendia. Bert Nievera, a good friend of the Carlos family, sang at the reception.

Dax graduated at the Ateneo with a degree in interdisciplinary study. He is presently the country manager for the Philippines of Global Business Solutions, an Australian IT company. Sheila went to La Salle where she earned her management diploma. She and Dax are partners in a small business engaged in mineral water.

THE BRIDE'S parents Demmie and Jessica Dizon

SEN. Franklin Drilon and the groom's father Vince Carlos



GLADYS Dueñas, Tricia Borromeo and Tetet Villanueva

FLOWER girls Zoi Buendia and Ella Garcia

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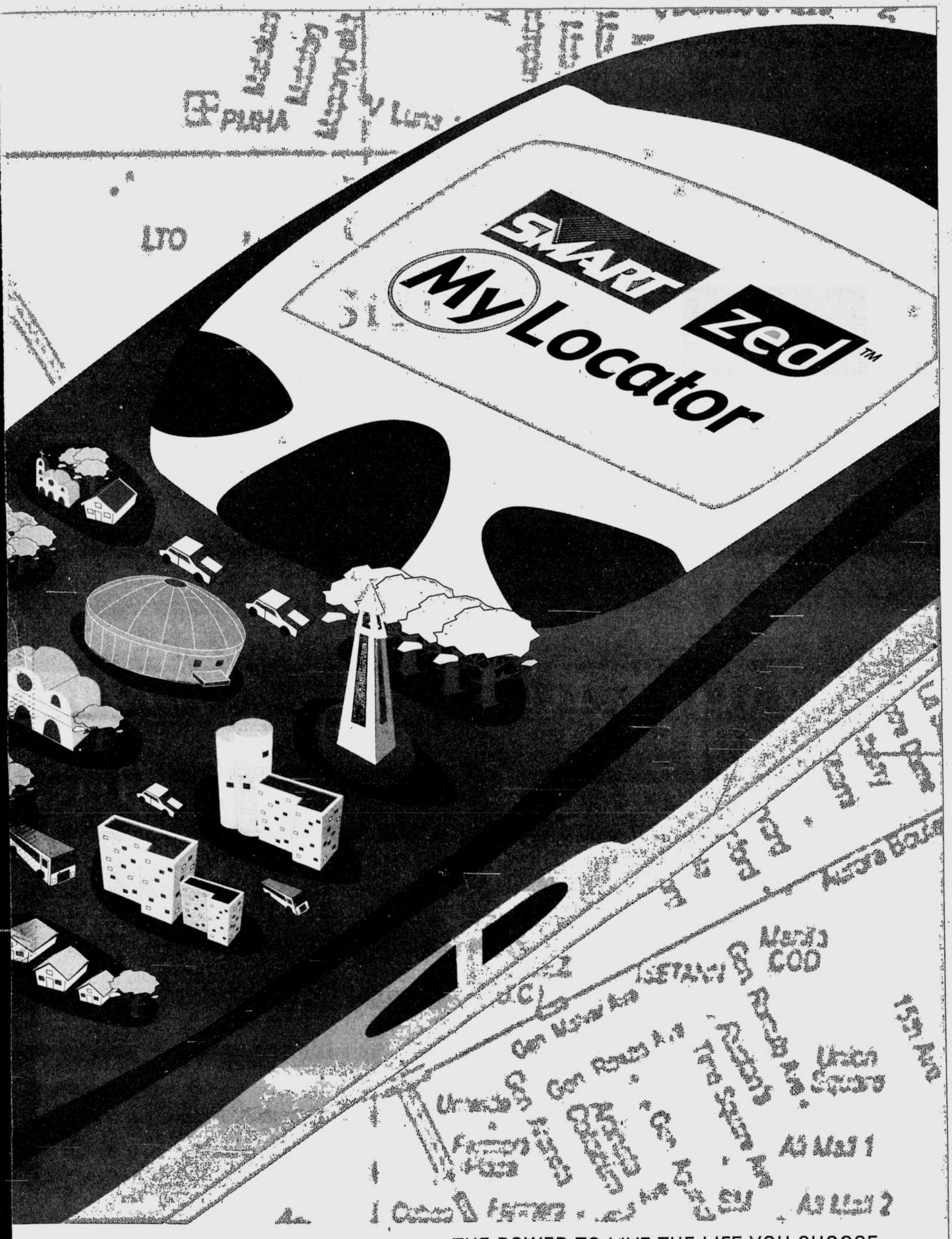

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Three weddings and an inauguration

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

WEDDING bells have been pealing, clanging and resounding all over Cebu as three marriages took place in quick succession. **Liza Mila**, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Lucina Mila**, became the bride of **Ruben Gallego** at afternoon rites held at the Redemptorist Parish. The bridegroom is the son of **Angeles Borromeo Gallego** and the late **Celso Gallego**. The reception was held at the poolside garden of Citylights, a scenic complex overlooking the city in what used to be the summer farm of the Gallego family.

Ruben's cousin, **Fabby Borromeo**, and his bride, **Kim Sy**, also chose the Redemptorist Parish for their wedding on a Saturday afternoon. Fabby, better known in Cebu banking circles as Francis Borromeo, is the son of **Paquito** and **Norma Borromeo**. And Kim is the daughter of **Jose** and **Geraldine Sy**. For the reception, they chose the Borromeo family's Montebello Villa Hotel whose Celebrity ballroom had all its grand chandeliers sparkling for this occasion.

For **Madeline del Rosario** and **Reggie Hisoler**, it was the Sacred Heart Parish. She is the daughter of **Rodulfo del Rosario** and **Josie Espina del Rosario**; he is the son of **Buddy Hisoler** and **Evelyn Retuya Hisoler**. The early afternoon rites gave everyone plenty of time to pretty up before the 7 p.m. reception at the Cebu Grand Convention Center where a fabulous lauriat was served. **Cora Cabinian Gandionco** outdid herself with the wedding cake.

GREG Zuniega and Anastacia Cheborateva

Eduardo Martinez-Miranda and his pretty wife, **Pilar** (née **Borromeo**), live in Manila most of the time with their children **Cecilla**, twins **Ainara** and **Sebastian**, and **Paloma**. But they come to Cebu for significant family celebrations. The latest was the inaugural of their mall—Crossroads.

Cutting the ribbon was Eduardo's mom, **Carmen Rodriguez de Martinez**, with Pilar's aunts **Marysol Borromeo Putong** and **Esther Yap Borromeo**. Very much in evidence were Pilar's sister, **Bernadette**, and her architect husband, **Ed Gallego**, who designed the mall, provincial board member **Mariano Martinez** and his wife **Ada** whose construction firm did the felicitous job.

The business aspect (leasing contracts, etc.) is handled by Cuervo Far East, hence the effervescent presence that day of **Monina Blanco** and her efficient Cebu staff—**Christine Perez**, **Cleofe Ulgasan**, **Benedict Centeno**, **Stella Orlanes** and **Harold Petidor**. An easy job, it seems, as practically all spaces have been taken by what has become the most in restaurant sector in town.

Hosting that day were **William Yap** with noodles from his Japanese restaurant, and the dashing **Glen Soco** with brews from his Coffee Dream. Shortly after the Crossroads inaugural was the opening of Tsai Tea Salon, the concern of **Jovy Alegrado**, his sisters **Julie Alegrado** and **June Alegrado Ugarte**, plus **Kathy Woolbright Darza** and **Joyce Chiongbian** and **Iris Fernan Arcenas**.

NEWLYWEDS Kim and Fabby Borromeo with their parents, Jose and Geraldine Sy (left) and Norma and Paquito Borromeo

They asked Austria's honorary consul general in Cebu, **Arcadio Alegrado**, to be the guest of honor, and he gallantly accepted even if it was his birthday. Which really made it all more festive. Tsai serves teas from all over the world, but it is their excellent food that makes people go back for more of the same, or to try something different every time.

Where did those recipes come from? **Fernando Aracama**, who used to live in Cebu before he opened Uva in Manila, came to town and shared his wisdom, trivia, technique and what-have-you with the Tsai Tea Salon to make its menu card sound like a delectable adventure. There he was on opening night surrounded by a coterie of pretties hanging on to every word he pronounced.

It was a grand reception and dinner at the Visayas ballroom of the Cebu Plaza Hotel when the consulate general of the People's Republic of China celebrated the Chinese Spring Festival and the assumption to office of the new consul general **Wu Lianqi**. On hand, too, were consul **Ni Jun** and **Fan Xianhua**, consul **Zhu Darong**, vice consul **Yang Zhaohui** and his wife **Wang Yuelin**, **Guo Quan** and his wife consul **Liu Liangli**, **Guo Qingjuan** and his wife vice consul **Xue Junying**.

There was also a Philippines-Japan Festival held at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel whose opening guests were the Japanese consul in Cebu **Eiji Ito** and regional director **Dawn Roa** of the Department of Tourism. Welcome remarks were by Dr. **Cherry Piquero Ballescas**, the driving force behind the Philajames-Cebu organization which sponsored the festivity.

In days that followed there were an art show, film showings, lectures, fora and, to culminate, the Ikebana International chapter in Cebu set up their 31st annual exhibit. **Carmen Go** was emcee at the opening program which had **Nanette Adlawan** leading the invocation, president **Norma Sanchez** welcoming all, guest of honor **Chary Aboitiz** delivering a message and **Misako Endo** performing on an oboe.

Exhibitors were **Corito Abalos**, Nanette Adlawan, **Charing Alfaro**, **Decdec Bacungan**, **Oka Bollozos**, **Anne Carey**, **Ching Dychangco**, **Betty Estaquio**, Carmen Go, **Sue Gray**, **Malou Hyden**, **Marina Kaufmann**;

Mariter Klepp, **Ado Macaraya**, **Becky Peralta**, **Office Rodela**, Norma Sanchez, **Doods Santos**, **Margie Sy**, **Linda To**, **Marissa Unchuan**, **Conching Velasco**, **Helen Yap** and **Lisa Young**.

The Arts Council headed by **Petite Garcia** held a session with **Nes Jardin** from the Cultural Center of the Philippines to assess its recent arts festival. A big success! That was the consensus of all. The culmination of the fest took place in the ballroom of the Cebu Plaza with Russian violinist **Anastacia Cheborateva**, accompanied by pianist **Greg Zuniega**, wowing everyone with her virtuoso playing, from the opening Polonaise Brillante by Wienawsky through Mozart's Sonata in B Flat, Massente's Meditation, Wenceslao Zubiri's "Matud Nila" as arranged by Red Romero, Tchaikovsky's Melodie and "Carmen Fantasie" arranged by Sarasate based on Bizet's famous opus.

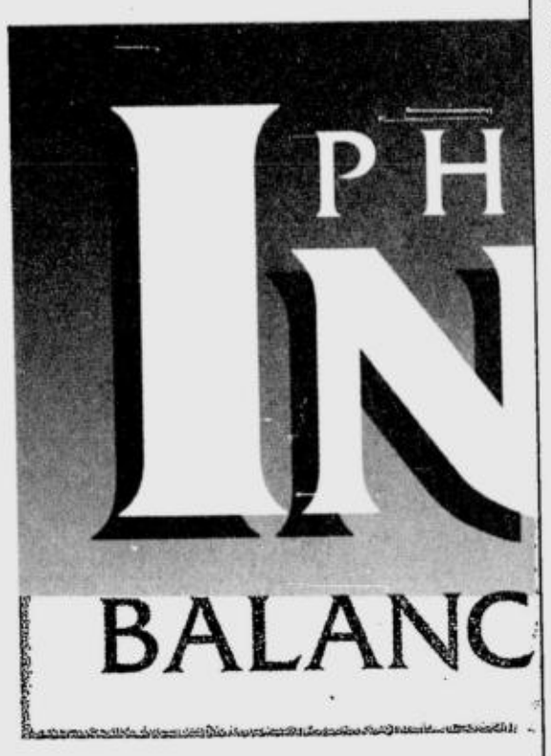
Arts Council trustees and festival committee chairs took this opportunity to give Garcia a token of their admiration for without her the festival would not have been possible. They slipped on a three-string opera-length pearl necklace which she vowed to wear at every event. Yet, there may be another arts fest in 2001 although not as extensive, for 2000 after all marked the group's 40th year.

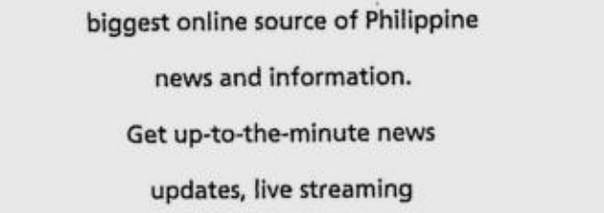
More immediate is the March 3 performance of the famous Bayanihan Dance Troupe in Cebu at Ayala Center's Theater for the Performing Arts. There's a matinee at 2:30 p.m. and a gala at 7 p.m. Then in the evening of March 16, the Arts Council presents violinist **Alexander Tomescu** at the Cebu Plaza Hotel. It is the second performance in Cebu for the Rumanian artist, and we also have **Red Romero** to thank for.

RUBEN and Liza Gallego (née Mila)

How do you fit two giants in one page?

Most of us have trouble fitting into our pants, what more bringing two media giants into one site? But with Inq7.net, the country's most awarded network and the nation's leading newspaper come together to create the biggest online source of Philippine news and information. Get up-to-the-minute news updates, live streaming video/audio of ongoing news events plus the insights and integrity you've come to expect from GMA and the Philippine Daily Inquirer. Sounds amazing? Log on to **www.inq7.net.**





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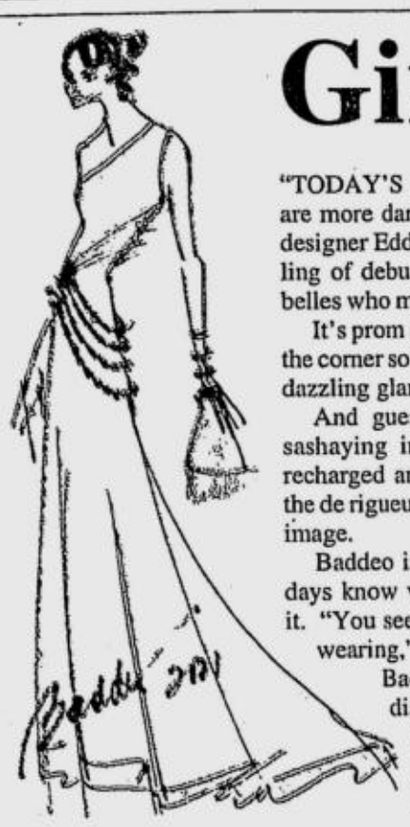
Girls go for glam wear

It's prom season, graduation is just around the corner and girls just want to have fun



FASHIONING new drapes, Baddeo creates a beautiful dream in this straw yellow and spectrum blue Venus-cut gown accented with elegant drippings, chains of beads and punctuated with a dramatic brooch that emphasizes the gown's fluid shape.

"TODAY'S teens have more confidence and are more daring in their fashion choices," says designer Eddie Baddeo, who is the reigning darling of debutantes, prom queens and grad ball belles who mostly go to exclusive girls' schools.

It's prom season and graduation is just around the corner so Baddeo is busy, busy, busy creating dazzling glam wear for pretty young things.

And guess what—the lovely subdebs are sashaying into the ballroom wearing totally recharged and updated fashion styles. Gone is the de rigueur sweet and wholesome (that word!) image.

Baddeo is amazed at how young girls these days know what they want and boldly express it. "You see this in the kind of clothes they are wearing," he adds.

Baddeo credits technology and the media for this new fashion awareness among the young. "With their access to fashion mags, teen girls are definitely more hip about style trends. They come to my shop with their Moms in tow, but they have the final say on the designs."

Yes, the fashionistas are getting younger these days. And for them, Baddeo proffers a slew of designs that will make Prom Season 2001 memorable. These dare to venture into previously forbidden fashion turf: more skin.

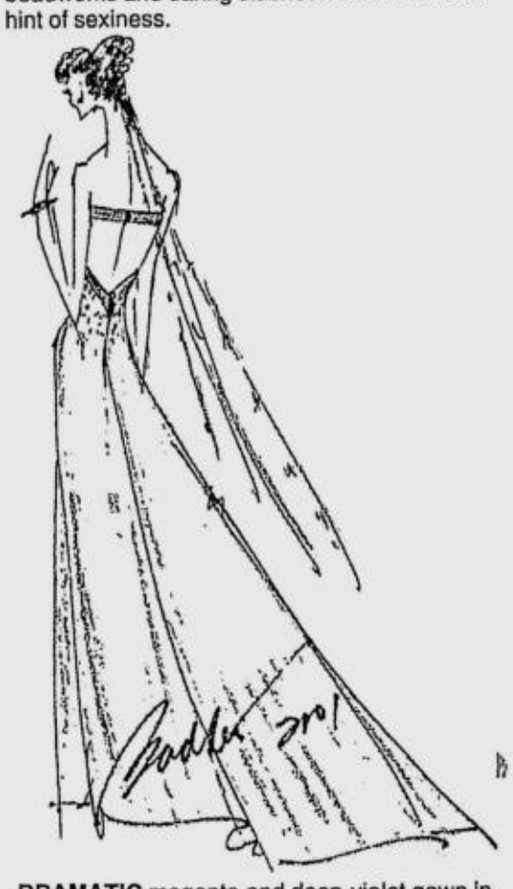
Baddeo balances the boldness with the softness of fabrics, subtle beadwork, graceful silhouettes that define lean shapes—in short, details that spell the difference between the old prom look and the new.

Baddeo, of course, is having fun. "It's exciting trying to relate to my young clients. They are challenging to design for. *Mataas ang* adrenaline and creativity levels *ko sa kanila!*"

That Baddeo has caught their youthful enthusiasm is evident in the sketches on this page. "As long as everything is done in good taste, their equally hip moms are willing to go with it," adds Baddeo.

MAKE a sleek and chic statement at night in this blue-gray and ultramarine gown in stretch faux velvet that features a sabrina neckline, capped sleeves, asymmetric cut at the waist traced with beadworks and a lingering tail that ensures dramatic, unforgettable exists.

CREATE a lasting impression with this Chinese-inspired flaming orange and blue-gray silk taffeta which features a raised neckline lavishly trimmed with bands of intricate beadworks and daring slashed sides for subtle hint of sexiness.



DRAMATIC magenta and deep-violet gown in dup dye silk. The beauty lies in the embellishments like sable trims and intricate beadworks of crystals that put emphasis on the revealing back and lingering fishtail.

EDDIE Baddeo

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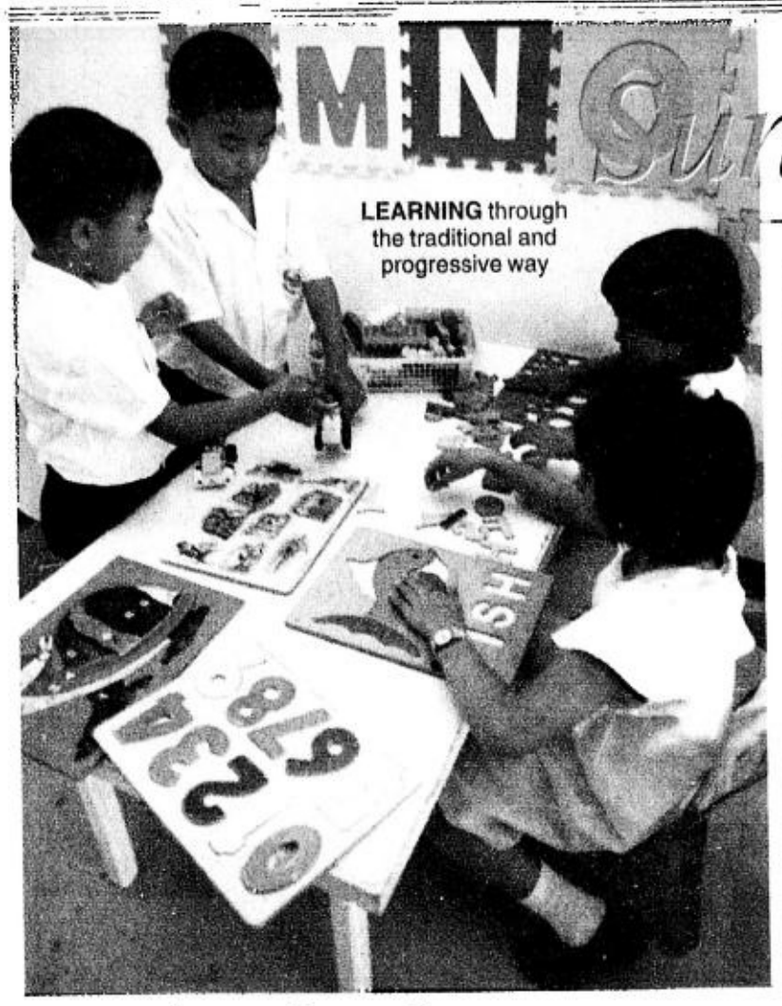

LEARNING through the traditional and progressive way

By its fruits, ye shall know the Learning Tree

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

TUCKED in the quiet neighborhood of Sugartown Homes is a preschool where the teacher-pupil ratio is 1:6, an absolute luxury in a city of overcrowded classrooms.

Learning Tree caters to the children of nearby Filinvest, North View and Mountain View villages. To date, it has 65 preschoolers. Only 3 years old, it aims to equip children with necessary skills to enter the big schools. To do that, it provides an individualized teaching method often offered by Montessori schools. Each teacher records a daily progress report on each child.

Owner Susan Mercedes Romero and her teachers recognize children as unique individuals having their own capabilities to acquire various skills. Thus, they highlight the children's individual strengths and not their weaknesses.

"We are here to further enhance and develop every child's strengths," says Romero. "I believe the critical years of a child's life are from birth to 6 years of age. The experiences and learning the children undergo during these years have a lasting effect on their intellectual, social and physical developments."

In Learning Tree, concepts and values are also taught through games,

BY/ p.G6

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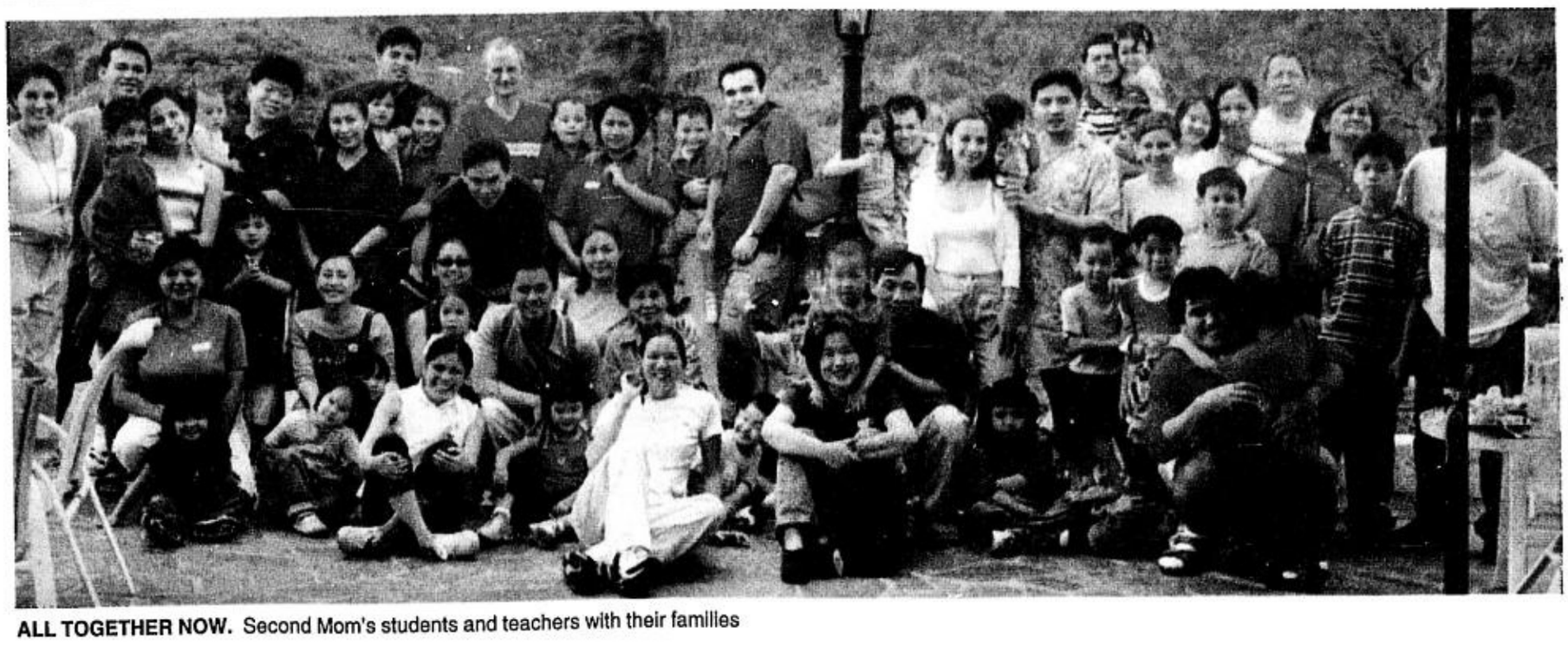
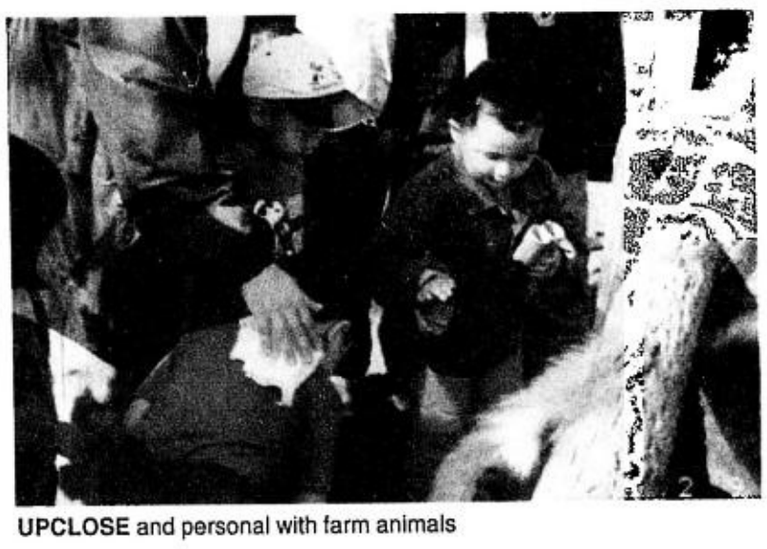
CARRARA

For Family Day, the Second Mom preschool went off campus so the children can ride horses, stroke the animals, swim, paint with their parents and forget about the foibles of city life



ALL TOGETHER NOW. Second Mom's students and teachers with their families

Tagaytay here we come



UPCLOSE and personal with farm animals

THE FAMILY that finger-paints together . . .

. . . STAYS together.

GET high on family and fun might as well have been the theme of Second Mom's Family Day recently.

The families of the little tots enroled at Second Mom drove to Tagaytay Highlands one Sunday to do some bonding, not only with their own kids but with their children's schoolmates and their parents and teachers. The parents applauded the choice of venue. You can't go wrong with Tagaytay, after all. The beautiful scenery and the company of classmates, teachers and other members of the family made 4-year-old Patricia Mariano feel good, according to parents Raul and Edna. Family Day enabled them to unwind. "In a way, we felt we were able to commune with nature. The surroundings were so peaceful and we felt like we were on top of the world," the Marianos add.

Besides the five-star venue and the breath of fresh Tagaytay air, Raul and Edna enjoyed the trip to the animal farm, as did Patricia.

Mark and Lutz Espiritu, whose 2-year-old daughter Monique is in the toddler class, strongly feel that getting involved in as many of the school's activities as they can is for their child's best interest. But their favorite activity so far is Family Day because "it not only focused on the children but also us, parents. We didn't want to miss this rare chance to get to know the other parents and teachers as well."

On Family Day, Monique saw for herself and realized that home and school can actually coexist and be fun. "I remember those times that we'd see Teacher Joyce at the mall," says Mom Lutz, "Monique would stare at her as if thinking, 'What are you doing here? You should be in school.' This Family Day has made her realize that her schoolmates also have Mommies and Daddies just like her." They enjoyed the games which were held at the hotel's Sports Center —from the obstacle course, caterpillar relay, longest line to the scavenger hunt fostered fellowship.

Fathers had to dress up in women's clothing to "go to town" in one game while participating couples were cheered on in the apple-eating contest.

Fermin D. Barrenechea III says he wanted to bond with his son Mikel Alexander, who is in Second Mom's junior nursery class, so he made sure to attend the Family Day. "I come from a close family and would like to do my best to give my son the same experience," he says. Family Day gives children the chance to interact in a different setting. It fosters the competitive spirit. "We enjoyed the zoo and the group games the most, says Fermin, an investment banker. Alexander, who is 4 years old, got a chance to have free play time on his own, which rarely happens in school where most activities are group-centered. "He spent some time by himself in the playground," says his dad, and for Alex that was fun.

Worth repeating

"It was a great experience—one that is certainly worth repeating," says Barrenechea. Jacky Lee enjoyed the "make a long line" game while her son Andrew, 4, enjoyed the part where he got to paint with his mom.

Three-year-old Renee Ermita, a nursery pupil at Second Mom, learned how to play with a team during Family Day. Mom Marisa says they joined Family Day "to show our children the importance of being together as a family not only at home but also in other activities." Aside from getting to meet the parents of their daughter's classmates and discovering "they are also children in their own ways," Ms Ermita says one good thing about Family Day was it gave her the chance to exercise. The family enjoyed the caterpillar race, but Renee enjoyed the obstacle course and the painting time.

To take time out with her 4-year-old son Adrian Benjamin, Antoinette Ureta forced Family Day into her busy schedule as a property consultant.

WITH PARENTS in tow, children visit the animal farm.

"We had a splendid time together. He was happy I was there for him," says Antoinette. She enjoyed all the activities. Adrian had the most fun during the hand-painting contest. "Thank you, Second Mom," she says, "for the memories of that fun-filled family day my son will always treasure."

Ibay C. Litonjua's daughter Thea—a.k.a. Cheese—had a great time playing and discovering new things. "We got to be close as a family, doing activities together. We got to meet parents of Thea's classmates when we are grouped to do activities. We had a great time with the teachers, classmates and parents," says Ibay. They reveled in the hand-painting activity where the whole family participated. Cheese loves art. "Actually, everything was fun," Ibay adds.

Organized fun

For the parents out there who have a tendency to minimize the importance of Family Day at school, listen to Theresa Bateson, whose son Peter, 3, is in the nursery at Second Mom: "Joining Family Day was very important to our child. That is why we made it a point to attend." The Batesons are among the parents who make time to attend school activities that are open to families. "And as always, Second Mom is very organized, from beginning to end." Peter became much closer to us especially to his daddy. Family Day is our day as a family plus it is an opportunity to be friends and much closer to other parents and other children. The obstacle course was the best, if you ask mom, but Peter enjoyed the Sack Race.

"I wish Second Mom will celebrate Family Day twice in a year," Theresa adds.

Faye Aquino's family knows how much she loves the outdoor so they couldn't miss out on the Tagaytay trip. "Family Day became an avenue for her to enjoy to the fullest her pleasures as a kid," says dad Felix.

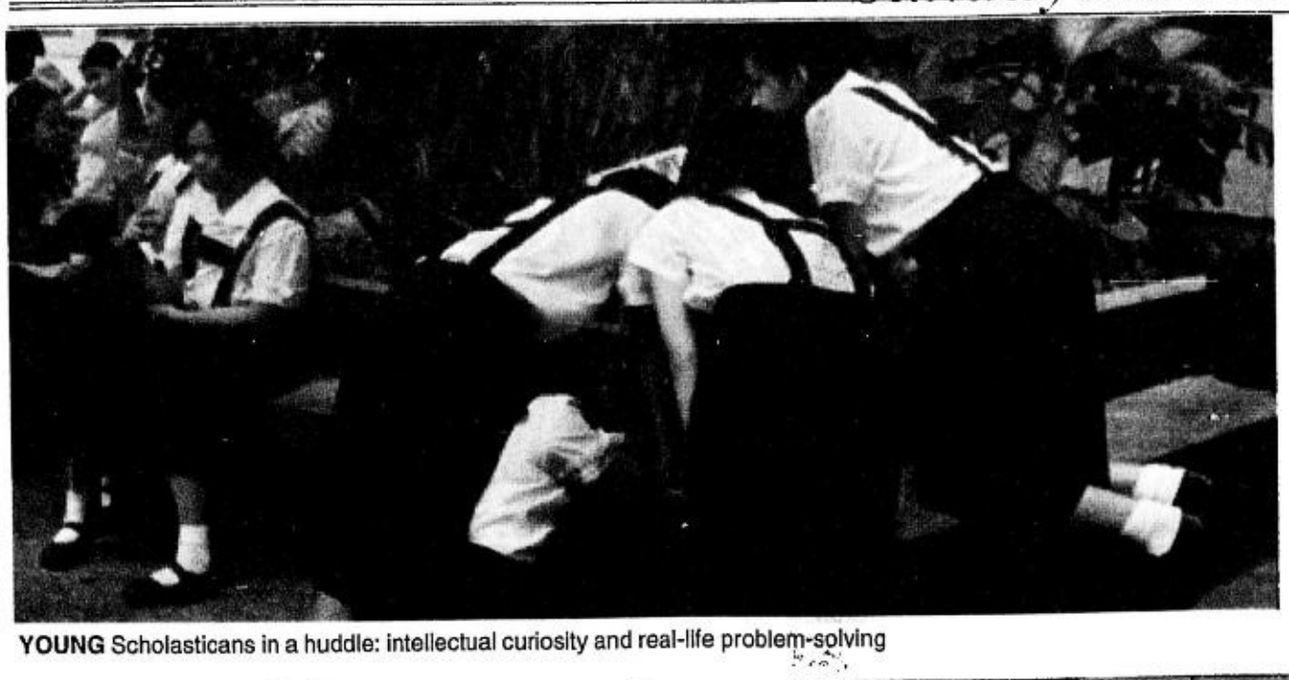
The nice part about this Family Day, says Felix, was that everybody joined in the games. Next time, though, more games should be geared for the kids. "I noticed that the parents were able to get the greater share of enjoyment," says Aquino.

Ivy Sahagun wanted to have a hand in daughter Aria's education so she showed up on Family Day. She singles out the farm activity as fun, but Aria's vote goes not only to the animal barn visit but also swimming and finger painting.

Nadine Sarmiento, who is in the nursery class, is lucky to have a father whose priority in life "is my family. Everything else is second." Activities during Family Day help build self-confidence among the kids, according to dad Donnie Sarmiento. The family enjoyed the relay race where each participant ate, walked on the catwalk, took a shot at basketball, etc. They also enjoyed the zoo. The children enjoyed the painting contest most. "They just created freely; no restrictions, rules, etc." They also played basketball and rode the horse in the mini zoo.

"We have attended seven Family Days, but this one stands out over the rest," he says. This is the first Family Day they have attended outside Metro Manila. "I'll rate it to 9+ out of 10," he says. "Next time, Boracay or Baguio?"

GAMES galore for the entire family at the Tagaytay Highlands Sports Center



YOUNG Scholasticans in a huddle: intellectual curiosity and real-life problem-solving

Let life teach the children

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

A RULE of St. Benedict—consultation with the young—is encouraged among teachers at St. Scholastica's College.

In times of social upheaval, school administrators and teachers don't actually drive the students to the streets but instead give them the option to join rallies and demonstrations, such as the People Power massing at Edsa.

"We don't suspend classes during rallies, for the students to have options," says Cecile B. Gutierrez, SSC vice president for academic affairs. "We observe leniency for such absences. If they miss their classes, they compensate for it... Edsa was a classroom. Those real-life events—actual experience is more significant than classroom experience."

Gutierrez admits they have received criticism from parents, but the teachers are responsible enough to process in the classroom what the students have experienced outside.

"When they get back to the classroom, there's a whole process wherein the experience is put in context," she says. "*Para hindi naiiwang naghahang*, especially for the first-timers. We ask them, 'Why were you there?' When they talked about how the crowd was shouting obscenities at Sen. Tessie Oreta, the teacher asked them, *'Tama ba 'yun?'* That here you are being taught proper values in the classroom and then you go out in the streets and say bad words?"

One of the school's academic goals is to teach knowledge that fosters real-life problem-solving. Another is to encourage intellectual curiosity that ensures continuous learning.

"Academic excellence is a social responsibility," says SSC president Sister Mary John Mananzan, OSB. "Don't make that an excuse—that you haven't done your term papers because you're out in the streets. If you're out in the streets, you're already doing your duty."

Interdisciplinary

Grade school principal Florina Castillo cannot agree more: "The biggest classrooms in the world are outside the school."

The school hopes to accomplish its academic goals through the interdisciplinary approach, which combines certain student activities and the traditional method of learning. Drawing its content both

> The biggest classrooms are outside the school, and St. Scholastica's students are allowed to learn what they can out there on Edsa, at the Batasan, in the communities

from traditional subject matter (such as the classics) and from current events and issues, the approach "ensures the wholistic and integrated development of students."

For instance, in the grade school program Search for the Filipino, which is geography plus social issues, the kids are taken on outings to the Ilocos, Bicol, Cordillera, lahar-land, to observe the various cultures and social circumstances of the regions.

"On the way to Banaue, we asked them to count the trucks carrying logs," Castillo relates. "They'll never use a G-string as a table runner or an altar cloth because they know it's an article of clothing. While on the school bus, we ask them to count the communities with shanties that they are passing by. In all instances, we let life teach the children."

In 1986, when the Constitution was being framed, Castillo had busloads of children go to the Batasan every day to watch how the commissioners were working. And they asked questions, too.

During campus elections, the kids use the same type of ballot as the Comelec one. They know what a political platform is. And they even have a political party called EHNT (Erap Hindi Natin Tutularan).

"*Kahit* impeachment they understand—*dito nga may na*-impeach, *e*," says Castillo proudly. "Oh, some student officials who didn't do their jobs."

QCPDF sponsors art tilt with 'Biyaya' as theme

REMEMBER Baby Biyaya? A year ago, the chubby day-old, fair-haired and porcelain-skinned infant, who was left by her biological mother at a Quezon Memorial Circle park shed was featured in numerous human interest stories on print and the broadcast media.

Today, Biyaya—christened Samantha Grace—celebrates her first birthday with an on-the-spot art contest from 8-11 a.m. With "Biyaya" or grace for its theme, the art tilt will be participated in by pupil-artists from public elementary schools.

While the process of legally adopting her is in order, Biyaya is under the care of Charito Planas, president of Quezon City Parks Development Foundation, and her niece, Alicia.

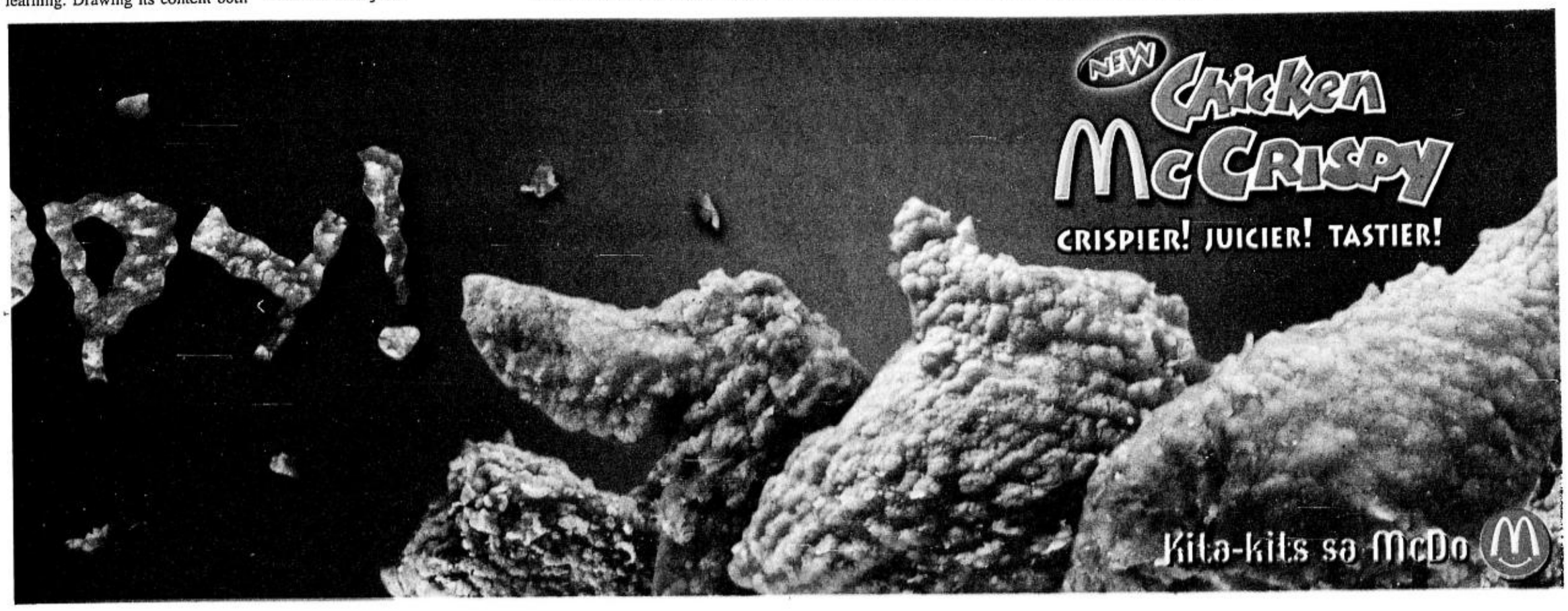
There will be folk and "Dayang-dayang" performances from Mines Elementary School while 12 year-old Marmolo Buit of Fairview Elementary School will render several Filipino pop songs.

At 6 p.m., a cultural show will feature the Shirley Halili-Cruz Ballet and at 8 p.m., the new disco site at the Circle will be inaugurated.

An exemplary life

THE PAPAL Award "Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice," which is the highest religious recognition to be given to a layman, will be conferred on Ms Erlinda T. Ong, by Archbishop of Manila Jaime Cardinal Sin, tomorrow at 5 p.m.

Ong's life has been dedicated toward faithfully serving our Lord, unselfishly helping the poor and underprivileged, giving aid to abused women and children, giving any effort to weary prisoners and senior citizens, and actively immersing herself in religious and charitable works, all for the glory of God.



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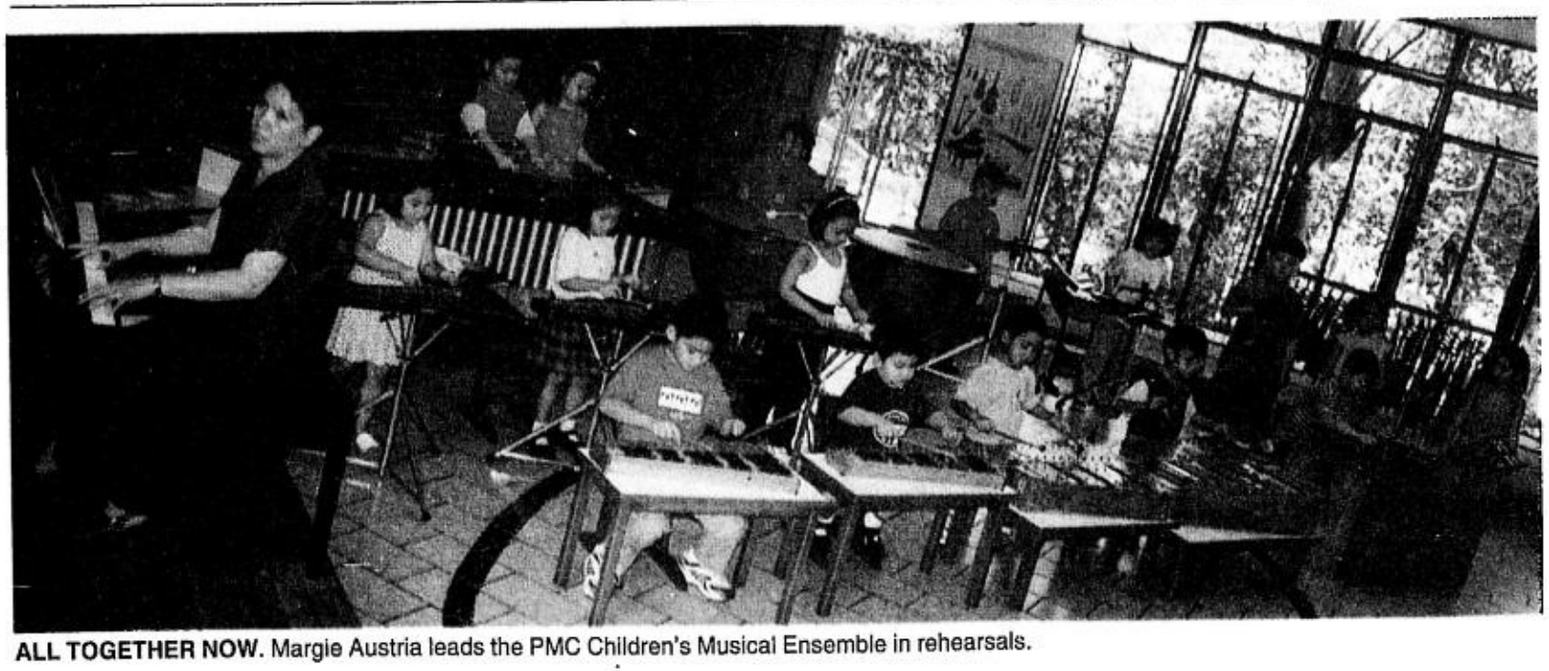


ALL TOGETHER NOW. Margie Austria leads the PMC Children's Musical Ensemble in rehearsals.

RYAN AND HIS LITTLE FRIENDS. Mr. C makes music with the PMC children.

Babes in musicland

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

MUSIC has long been believed to stimulate all of the senses and involve children at many levels. Much has been written about the many benefits of exposing a child early to various forms of music. Music appreciation in the form of Mozart for babies, bringing children to musical plays and the opera are some of the activities touted about. Music is both highly motivating and yet calming and relaxing. According to the American Music Therapy Association, enjoyable music activities are designed to be success-oriented to make children feel better about themselves. The Philippine Montessori Center (PMC), one of the top pre-schools in Metro Manila, has taken that dictum to heart and adopted a laudable program for music appreciation for children as young as 3 years old.

Beginnings of the ensemble

The seed of the PMC's musical ensemble was planted in the early 1980s when its music teachers adopted the philosophy and methods of Carl Orff, a contemporary German composer who worked with children for more than 30 years. Orff believed that bringing out a child's love of music would likewise bring to the fore his innate humanity. Observing that young children responded most readily to rhythm, Orff focused on the rhythmic expression of music when teaching it to preschoolers. .

The Canadian Music Therapy Association advocates the playing of instruments for it can improve gross and fine motor coordination. Playing in instrumental ensembles helps a child learn how to work within a group structure. Learning a piece of music and performing it develop musical skills and help a child build self-reliance, self-esteem and self-discipline.

The PMC Instrumental Ensemble was originally called the Orff Instrumental Ensemble with the children learning to play Orff (or percussion) instruments such as the glockenspiel, the xylophone and the metallophone. Through the years, the music teachers noticed that Filipino children were extraordinarily musical and appreciated melody as much as rhythm. Thus, the students were soon introduced to other instruments like the marimba and the angklung, an indigenous Indonesian bamboo instrument.

Today, at the PMC, music education has become an integral part of its curriculum. Teachers have noted that children who are exposed early to fine music perform better academically and seem more emotionally stable. Take the case of 5-year-old robust and chinky-eyed Justin who was once a tentative,sometimes temperamental performer. He has become, in his teacher's words, "a consummate artist, truly in love with what he does and dedicated to improving his craft." Justin's musicality has grown tremendously in the last year, and with it, his concentration, discipline and self-confidence. When he practices a few sequences on his instrument, he does so enthusiastically and with obvious skill. This is typical of the members of the PMC Instrumental Ensemble, who exhibit levels of concentration, discipline, teamwork and artistic fluency remarkable for 3 to 5 year olds.

Music mentors

A huge part of the PMC ensemble's success also goes to its directress, Ms Iluminada Woelhaff, herself a devotee of the fine arts, and PMC's music teachers, who unselfishly devote their time and give the little students much inspiration and vitality. More than just a dedicated teacher, each one is a performer in her own right. Margie Austria is one of the Madrigal Singers, while Cathy Zulueta and Lois Espinosa sing with the Choral Emsemble Philippines. Lois Navarette is a member of "His Sounds," a Christian singing group, and Ruby Salvosa is a piano teacher who trains gifted young students for concerts and competitions. All five teachers have been teaching at the PMC for many years, seeing the ensemble from its earliest days.

All of the children attending classes at the PMC are exposed to music at a very early age. Aside from watching their peers perform in the ensemble, they are also constantly exposed to various musical plays and presentations throughout the schoolyear. It is amazing to see a group of 5 year olds sit through an entire hour's performance of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at the CCP, but the PMC has been able to do that with their students many, many times over.

It has been said that listening to music has many therapeutic applications. It helps develop cognitive skills such as attention and memory and provides a stimulating way to explore and understand our own and other cultures.

The PMC children's musical ensemble has impressed audiences at the PICC Plenary Hall, PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall, the CCP and the Malacañang Palace.

On March 2 at 7 p.m., the AFP Theatre in Camp Aguinaldo will be the venue of another performance by the highly talented ensemble together with multiawarded Filipino music composer Ryan Cayabyab. In a show aptly called "Ryan and His Little Friends," Mr. C takes centerstage together with the talented children of the PMC Instrumental Ensemble whose ages range from 4 to 7 years old. To add further luster is special guest Jamie Rivera, who will be singing as the PMC children's ensemble performs hits she recently popularized.

It has always been such a source of joy and wonder to see children at play, more so to watch them skillfully perform on instruments many adults would not even dream of touching with a 10-ft pole. For these young children, who show great promise, the best is yet to come.

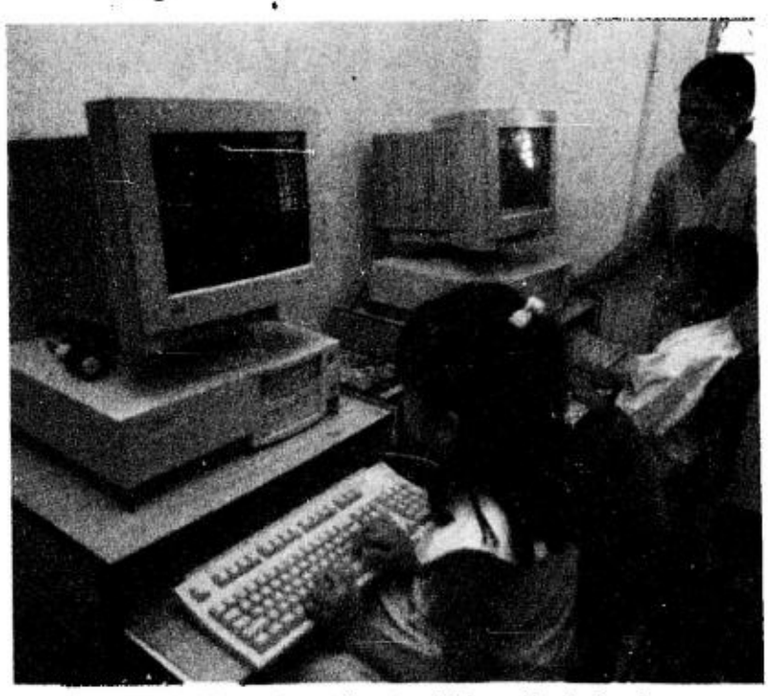
Call the PMC at 911-4838 or 911-4889.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph.

SAY "MUSIC." Li'l tikes ham it up for the camera.

By its fruits, ye shall know the Learning Tree

Their preschoolers often top the exams when they go to big schools—and this may be due to the 1:6 teacher-pupil ratio



PRESCHOOLERS learn the rudiments of information technology.

PRESCHOOL children flock to the playground with genuine Boracay white sand.

(From page G1)

movements and other activities that require hands-on experience. It also concentrates on the academic development, such as reading and writing.

Medium of instruction is English. Every day, the students are given 45 minutes for writing and another 45 minutes for individualized reading. The kids come in batches for morning and afternoon. Learning Tree accepts pre-nursery (2.6 years and 3.5 years) advance nursery (3.6 to 4.5 years), kinder one (4.6 to 5.5 years) and kinder two (5.6 to 6.5 years)

Helping Romero run the school's program is Unleash International Corporation, a professional group that offers training program for various companies and individuals. To assist the teachers in their work plan, Romero taps the services of Elvie Caballes, an education consultant.

Romero regularly flies to the United States to buy more books, puzzles and puppets for the students.

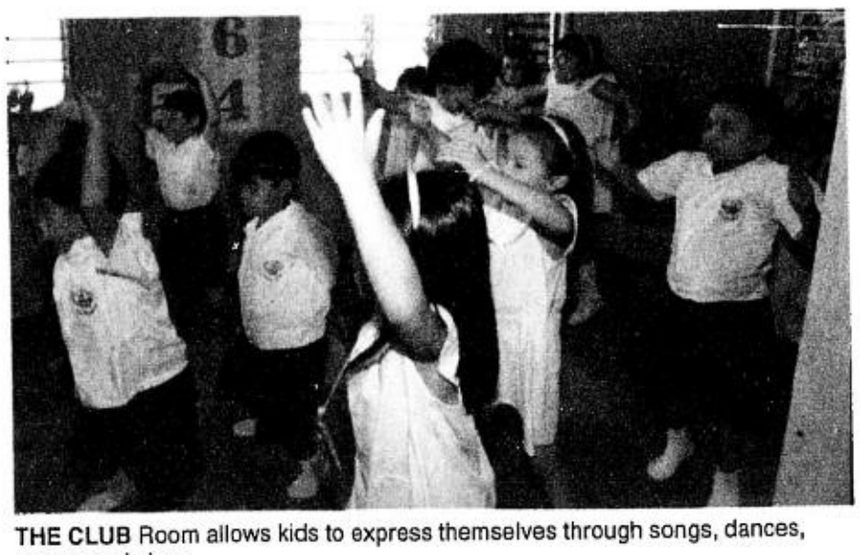
Romero is proud to say their preschool graduates often top the exams when they go to big schools. "Some parents even come to me to inform me that their children were accelerated," she says.

Features and activities

Learning Tree sits on a 350-sq m lot with enough play area for kids. It has four classrooms with custom-built tables, chairs and cabinets for children. Each classroom has natural light that pierces through the windows. The large windows also allow the natural air to flow in, thus making the kids less susceptible to colds and flu often caused by air-conditioned rooms. But, it also has ceiling fans for cross-ventilation and fluorescent lamps for added lights.

Learning Tree has complied with the requirements of Department of Education, Culture and Sports in terms of the mandatory size of preschools.

The cool interiors play on the bright colors of yellow, green, lavender and pink. Learning Tree doesn't have a library to speak of, which is a basic requirement of DECS, but it has several bookshelves containing easy books or books with more pictures for the younger set, as well as Bible storybooks. The various sizes of wooden bookshelves are neatly arranged against the walls.



THE CLUB Room allows kids to express themselves through songs, dances, poems and plays.

There is also a special room where kids can express themselves through songs, dances, poems and plays. It's called The Club Room. It has a television, a VHS player, a karaoke and other toy musical instruments (drums, maracas, tambourine). Here, children get to watch educational tapes, listen to nursery songs and inspirational tunes and lie around (it's well carpeted) to listen and participate in the storytelling session.

The preschoolers have special activity called Group Encounters in which the tots are taught self-care (dressing up, zippering, washing clothes), table manners, sharing and polite expression. They also learn to return their playthings in proper place. Each kid has a personal grooming kit with extra clean shirts in case they soiled their uniforms.

During nutrition month, the kids are taught how to cook. With close supervision of teachers, the kids learn to cook vegetables, pancakes and even prepare salads.

Like most preschools, Learning Tree also has a computer room where they can learn the rudiments of information technology that allows him or her to unleash his creative talents. It houses two computers and a printer.

LEARNING Tree Montessori owner Susan Mercedes Romero

The school has two bathrooms and two sinks for washing of hands and plates. It also has safe drinking water dispenser—all DECS-compliant.

The ample play area, right outside the classrooms, is a sight to behold. Instead of putting a simple sandbox required by DECS, Romero has created a recreation area with a pool-like shape playground filled with Boracay's white sand. "The kids love it and cannot get over it," exclaims Romero. The playground also has balance beams, slide, colorful plastic jungle gym, dollhouse and a mini basketball goal.

The Learning Tree holds field trips yearly. So far, the kids have gone to Museo Pambata, Manila Zoo and Science Centrum. Last year, they trekked to Enchanted Kingdom and Rizal Shrine. Every year, they hold Family Day for bonding. They also give special programs where kids get to exhibit their talents to parents and guardians.

The Learning Tree Mon-tessori (tel. 428-8264) is located, at Sugartown Homes (Block 17, Lots 38 and 39), Batasan Hills, QC.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

The Waldorf way: Let your fingers . . .

Children learn with their hands and limbs at this school that uses a system originally designed by philosopher Rudolf Steiner for children of factory workers

(From page G8)

many 'involved' parents at Waldorf, for in this school the parents are very much a part of the learning environment, which makes for exciting quality education relevant to the times."

With all the innovation going on in education these days, it is surprising that one causing quite a stir for its zany, humanist theories harks back to the start of the previous century.

Waldorf education began in 1919 when Rudolf Steiner, a leading Austrian philosopher and scientist, visited the Waldorf-Astoria cigarette factory in Stuttgart, Germany. After giving a speech to the workers there on the need for a new social order and a new sense of ethics in the wake of World War I, he was asked by the factory owner to start a school for the workers' children.

After several conditions were met (among others, that teachers help run the school), Steiner agreed. His curriculum was ambitious, founded on the following dictum: "The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility—these are the three forces which are the very nerve of education."

Thus was born an educational system that can be found today in about 650 schools and 60 teacher training institutes in over 50 countries, the Philippines included (1994).

Waldorf offers roughly the same subjects other schools do, but the teachers take pains to develop what they believe to be the 12 senses: the accepted five, plus thought, language, warmth, balance, movement, life and the individuality of the other.

Kooky, perhaps, but modern research is beginning to confirm the validity of this way of thinking. The idea, Waldorf theorists point out, is to engage and connect a student's thinking and feeling realms.

How does Waldorf education do this?

Students dirty their hands and let their imaginations run wild with art projects; language classes come in the form of storytelling sessions up till the third grade, when reading is introduced; music, which is central to the curriculum, comes in the form of improvisational instrument and singing classes; mathematics is taught using an exciting game called "mental math" and by body-and-sound exercises; science classes begin with experiments, which ensure animated discussions in class the following day.

And since students aren't graded on their work until they reach high school, they look at school work not as a means of getting good grades but as a way of becoming better people.

Moreover, students are discouraged from watching television, and computer technology is taught only in high school. This is to keep students from relying on technology which, says a Waldorf teacher, "promises an experience by which we don't have to do anything to make it happen."

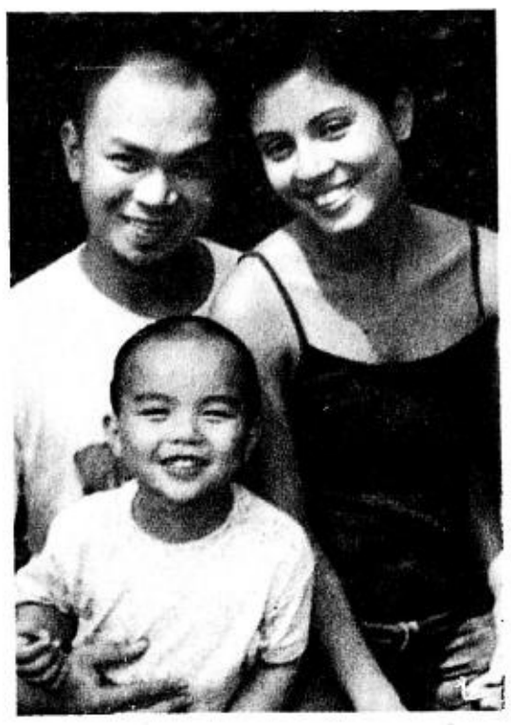
Peter Nitze, a Waldorf alumnus who went on to Harvard and Stanford and is now a global operations director at AlliedSignal, a manufacturer of aerospace and automotive products, sums up his Waldorf education thus: "If you've had the experience of binding a book, knitting a sock, playing a recorder, then you feel that you can build a rocket ship—or learn a software program you've never touched. It's not bravado, just quiet confidence. There is nothing you can't do. Why couldn't you? Why couldn't anybody?"

The idea is that students need to learn that the rewards they reap from an experience require a commensurate amount of effort—mental, physical, even emotional. As another Waldorf teacher puts it, "Your finger sense develops your overall brain capacity."

Although originally designed to educate the children of factory workers, Waldorf has through the years evolved into a school for the children of the likes of actor Paul Newman, football star Joe Namath, car manufacturer John DeLorean and premier danseur Mikhail Baryshnikov in the United States, and network heiress and philanthropist Gina Lopez and "I-Witness" host Luchi Cruz-Valdes in the Philippines.

The Waldorf Manila School (tel. 374-2922/3) is at 3 Vinzon St. corner Jose Abad Santos, Heroes Hills, QC.

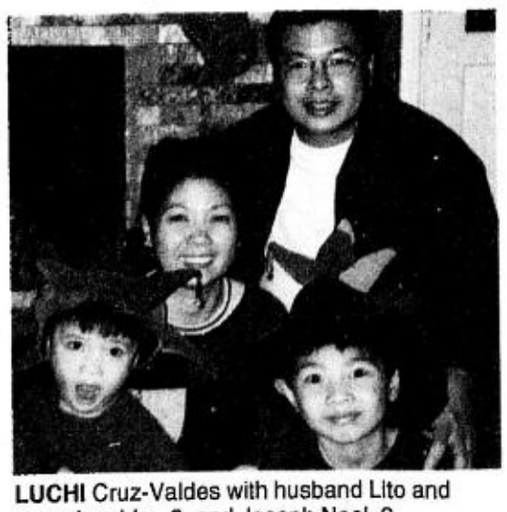
MAKING MUSIC. Playing the flute and the violin



INA Pozon-Bulatao with husband Mulawin and son Alekos, 4

GINA Lopez with sons Roberto Miguel (Bapi), 8, and Benjamin Emmanuel (Babu), 4

SUSAN Quimpo with daughter Sarita, 5



LUCHI Cruz-Valdes with husband Lito and sons Joachim, 6, and Joseph Noel, 9

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4. Drop your entries in selected supermarkets and RMN radio stations nationwide.

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BACOLOD	COTABATO	ILOILO	PAGADIAN
BISLIG	DAGUPAN	KALIBO	ROXAS
BUTUAN	DAVAO	LAOAG	SURIGAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO	DIPOLOG	MALAYBALAY	TACLOBAN
			ZAMBOANGA

5. You may also mail entries to ACE PROMOTIONS # 2468 Zamora St. corner D. Reyes St. Pasay City.
6. Watch the raffle draws in MILO Sporting World every Sunday, 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm on VTV 13.

Schedule of draws are as follows:

March 11	April 1	May 6
March 18	April 8	May 13
March 25	April 15	May 20
	April 22	May 27
	April 29	

7. One (1) winner will be drawn every week. Winners will be given a choice of P200,000.00 in cash or one (1) trip for two to any of the following events:

US OPEN Finals (PGA Tour) - Southern Hills Country Club Tulsa Oklahoma
National Basketball Association (NBA) Finals - USA
Wimbledon - London, UK
San Francisco Marathon - USA
Tour De France (Paris Leg) - Paris, France
Asian Junior Badminton Championship - Taipei
Women's Volleyball Qualifying Tournament - Manila
SEA Games 2001 - Malaysia

Nestlé Philippines, however, will only shoulder the maximum amount of P200,000.00 for any of the sporting events listed above. Any excess amount thereof shall be paid for by the winner.

If the winner chooses one of the sporting events within the 60-day period mentioned in Rule No. 10, the winner may still opt to get the cash prize of P200,000.00 prior to the confirmation of the booking. Upon confirmation of the booking, the winner can no longer exercise the cash option.

8. Submission of entries is from February 18 to May 20, 2001.
9. Raffle draws will be witnessed by a DOH-BFAD representative. Only one (1) entry will be picked in each raffle draw.
10. Winners will be sent registered mails on how they can claim their prizes. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from the date of receipt of the registered mail shall be forfeited upon approval of the DOH-BFAD.
11. Winners' names will be announced in a leading newspaper.
12. Winners must present the notification letter and at least one (1) valid ID (driver's license, passport, or school/company ID) when claiming their prizes. They may send their representatives on their behalf, provided they bring the following: Letter of Authorization from the winner, proper identification papers, and the letter of notification sent by Nestlé Philippines, Inc.
13. All necessary travel documents, i.e. visa, passport, etc. will be arranged and paid for by the winner.
14. Tickets and passes to the sporting events are subject to availability.
15. All employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging suppliers, their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are automatically disqualified from joining the promotion.
16. The organizer's decision, in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD, is deemed final.

DOH-BFAD-NCR SERIES OF 2001

The Waldorf way: Let your fingers help your thinking

DIRTYING THEIR HANDS. Developing a green thumb at a young age

BY MOZART A.T. PASTRANO

NOWADAYS we all know that emotional intelligence—"personal traits such as self-awareness, confidence and flexibility," as enumerated by Daniel Goleman in his groundbreaking 1995 book "Emotional Intelligence"—is as important as intelligence quotient, or IQ. But have you heard of the equally crucial WQ?

It's the "will quotient"—or as Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil, a parent actively involved in the trailblazing Waldorf school in Quezon City, puts it, "the ability to will into deed what is truly beneficial for humanity."

At the Waldorf, she says, WQ is developed in toddlers and preschoolers (up to 7 years old) as "they learn—with their hands and their limbs—how to grow a plant, how to build a house, how to paint artwork, how to play the flute and the violin."

Declares Ongkeko-Marfil, "I am now one of the

THE WALDORF/ p.G7

BUILDING BLOCKS. Schoolchildren build a house.

angel, cher and daphne on staying

beautiful, sexy and healthy

Women like us always want to stay healthy. But harmful FREE RADICALS can damage our body cells. These FREE RADICALS promote premature aging and leave women with the telltale signs: facial lines, sagging muscles and weak staminas. But you can put a stop to aging by working from the inside with **MYRA 300-E**.

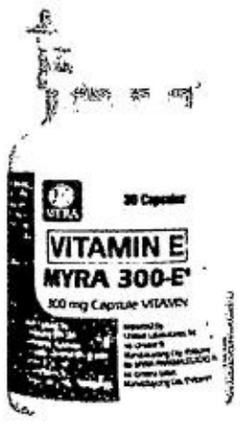
MYRA 300-E *helps eliminate FREE RADICALS caused by stress, pollution and the effects of everyday living. These free radicals destroy body cells and speed up the aging process.* **MYRA 300-E** *promotes the process of cellular renewal for healthier body cells, so you'll look and feel younger.*

We believe in staying beautiful, sexy and healthy. That's why we put some [e] into our lives with **MYRA 300-E**!

Harmful FREE Radicals (pollution, stress, poor diet) destroy the body cells and speed up aging.

MYRA 300-E *works from the inside, repelling harmful FREE Radicals by promoting Cellular Renewal and helping the body's production of new cells.*

MYRA 300-E *keeps body cells healthy and helps prevent premature aging.*



So put some [e] into your life.

VITAMIN E
MYRA 300-E®

Healthy Cells Make Healthy Bodies.

PUTTING THE [e] INTO YOUR LIFE

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH [e]!

Our bodies are composed of millions of building blocks: the human cells. That's where health and beauty begin - deep down inside, on the cellular level. You see, healthy cells are the building blocks of healthy bodies. So if you want to look and feel good on the outside, you've got to start from the inside - on the cellular level.

FREE RADICALS TAKE THE [e] OUT OF LIFE!

However, cellular health can be comprised by various factors we encounter in day - to - day living: stress, pollution, pressure, excessive UV rays, smoking, secondhand smoke, and even physical activity. These can take its toll on our bodies by giving rise to the production of harmful free radicals that cause damage to cells and tissues. Free radicals are oxygen molecules that cause the process of oxidation - a chemical reaction that can eventually lead to cholesterol build-up in the heart's arterial walls. Oxidation can also lead to fatigue and may even damage your skin, causing wrinkles and accelerating the aging process, as well as other disturbances to major organs including the heart and lungs. And because excessive free radicals also attack healthy body cells, once they damage the mitochondria - the human cells' power generators - your cells lose energy, making you feel and look tired.

RESTORING THE [e] TO HEALTH AND BEAUTY

To neutralize the damaging effects of free radicals, take VITAMIN E, an anti- oxidant that hinders cholesterol buildup by preventing oxidation. It also cleans up waste deposits in the blood and helps eliminate harmful free radicals. That's how Vitamin E promotes the process of cellular renewal - repelling free radicals and aiding in the repair and revitalization of damaged cells. And because Vitamin E is an excellent antioxidant, it protects the skin against the harmful effects of exposure to the sun, chemicals, and pollution.

For health and beauty inside out!

PUT THE [e] BACK INTO YOUR LIFE!

Put some [e] into your life with Myra 300 - E! - a pure , potent vitamin E. Every capsule contains 300 I.U. (International Units) of Vitamin E. A capsule a day helps promote cellular renewal so you look and feel younger - longer! Put some [e] into your life with Myra 300-E. Because healthy cells, make healthy bodies!

MYRA 300-E LAUNCHES ITS NEW TV CAMPAIGN

Myra 300-E's new television campaign now features the hosts of the TV program "F", namely: Angel Aquino, Cher Calvin and Daphne Oseña as the product's new endorsers.

The three women best embody the Myra 300-E look and attitude as all of them are equally healthy, sexy and beautiful, not to mention smart and well-respected in their own fields.

The concept behind the "E-Girls" 30-seconder TV commercial was developed by Myra 300-E's advertising agency Dentsu, Young and Rubicam-Alcantara and directed by Mario Sarmiento of Visual Workshop.

From left to right: Eva Datol, Senior Brand Manager of Myra 300-E; talents and new product endorsers Daphne Oseña, Cher Calvin, and Angel Aquino; and Alvin So, Group Product Manager-Vitamin Division of Myra 300-E.

From left to right: Jem Lim, Broadcast Director; Hazel Bravo Account Executive; Eva Datol, Senior Brand Manager of Myra 300-E; Gail Castelo, Account Supervisor; Bonnie Melocoton, AVP-Creative Director; Daphne Oseña; Juan Suarte, make-up artist; Cher Calvin; Angel Aquino; Lyli Eleuterio, Senior Art Director; Christine Taroy, Copywriter and Girlie Jose, Talent Caster.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

After Edsa II, it's time to pay tribute to Edsa Virgin sculptress

Her last major work derided by critics, Virginia Ty-Navarro went to her death a sad artist. But her art lives on

Story on page H2

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The shooting of rare animals will remain unknown.

Unless we shoot back.

WWF
The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.
INQUIRER

Ilang beses kayo nakakaligo sa health soap kada linggo ?

After Edsa II, it's time to pay tribute to Edsa Virgin sculptress

BY DORIS G. NUYDA

THE CLEAREST images of Edsa People Power II are of people massed around the Edsa Shrine at the corner of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue.

There were people on the shrine's street level, on the flyover that crosses Edsa, and fanning out from every side, as far as the eye and the TV cameras could see.

In this setting, a solitary figure towered above all. While people talked, chanted, sang and made history below, the bronze and brass figure of Mary, Queen of Peace, rising 35 feet, stretched her hands to all—the right hand held outward in the manner of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (which inspired the design), the left pointing skyward.

According to Bishop Gabriel Reyes who headed the committee that commissioned the work, the pose symbolizes the flow of grace from Mary (the uplifted left hand) down to the people (the right). In the light of events leading to People Power II, the symbolism seems apt.

Artist-sculptor Virginia Ty-Navarro was commissioned to do the statue to commemorate the Edsa Revolution of 1986. She had to finish it on time for February 1989, the third anniversary of the event.

Virginia's work area was a vacant lot in front of her house in San Juan, Metro Manila. The lot was lent to her by its owner for the duration of the work, which made it possible for neighbors to watch its progress. The place almost seemed like a pilgrimage site at the time.

Hard work

It took Virginia 16 months and about P12 million to complete the statue. The original design called for a cement base, but this had to be cut off to make the statue lighter and facilitate its transfer from the work site to the shrine.

Steel flooring on the shrine replaced the statue's cement base, according to Virginia. Installing the statue on the shrine's roof, however, required that the statue be set a bit lower than originally planned, so that now, Mary's feet are hardly seen. In general, Virginia was happy to see her work take its place in so sacred and historic a site. For Mary stands as Queen of

VIRGINIA Ty-Navarro

Peace, a crown on her head, birds of peace on her shoulder and hand (birds were one of Virginia's favorite subjects), a radiant heart on her breast, her robe falling in drapes.

She reigns, as Jaime Cardinal Sin said in a pastoral letter recently, on holy ground. Many of those present at both People Power I and II believe it's so, that it was Mary who guided the events that unfolded on both occasions.

Virginia herself never saw People Power II and perhaps it is just as well. In the excitement of those four days of the people's vigil, one aspect of the towering figure seems to have been overlooked—her face. Virginia had sculpted her with Asian features, dominant of which were slit eyes. She had also given her a strong rather than a meek look, with eyes directed ahead rather than downward as on many conventional Marian images.

The "Asian" eyes became a point of contention early on which brought Virginia to tears many times. She was to wonder why, since her original design had already been approved, she was being asked to make the Queen of Edsa look less Asian, more like a popular mestiza movie star?

Touch-up

It pained her that she was being asked to make those changes after the work had been finished. But she changed nothing while she lived. It was after her death in 1996 (of a type of Alzheimer's disease) that her children noticed the changes. We ourselves learned of it only after Edsa II, when we got a chance to talk to her youngest daughter, Pearl, who informed us that parts of the statue's nose and cheek had been chipped off and subsequently restored.

The chipping off and restoration resulted in some changes in Mary's looks, Pearl added. So questions cropped up: how did the nose and cheek get chipped off, and who did the repair job? The Navarro children were told it was while the statue was being polished that parts of the face were chipped off. They were not told who put them back. The Society of Filipino Sculptors (of which Virginia was a member) voiced their protest against the touch-up job, but as far as Pearl knows, that was as far as that went.

Pearl and her siblings are saddened by this postscript to their mother's story, but have learned to live with it. She and her elder brother, Jerry Jr., continue to live in the family compound, while Jade, the middle child, now Ms Bengco, lives with her family in Michigan, USA.

As the 15th anniversary of Edsa I is celebrated, the Ty-Navarro children look forward to new developments in their lives. Orphaned of both parents, they find much consolation surrounded by their parents' art. There is the statue of Mary at the Edsa Shrine by Virginia and now, a book that pays tribute to the life and work of their father, National Artist J. Elizalde Navarro, which will be launched middle of this year.

Para makarami, mag-proteksyong-LIFEBUOY araw-araw !

US professional educators' exam brought to RP

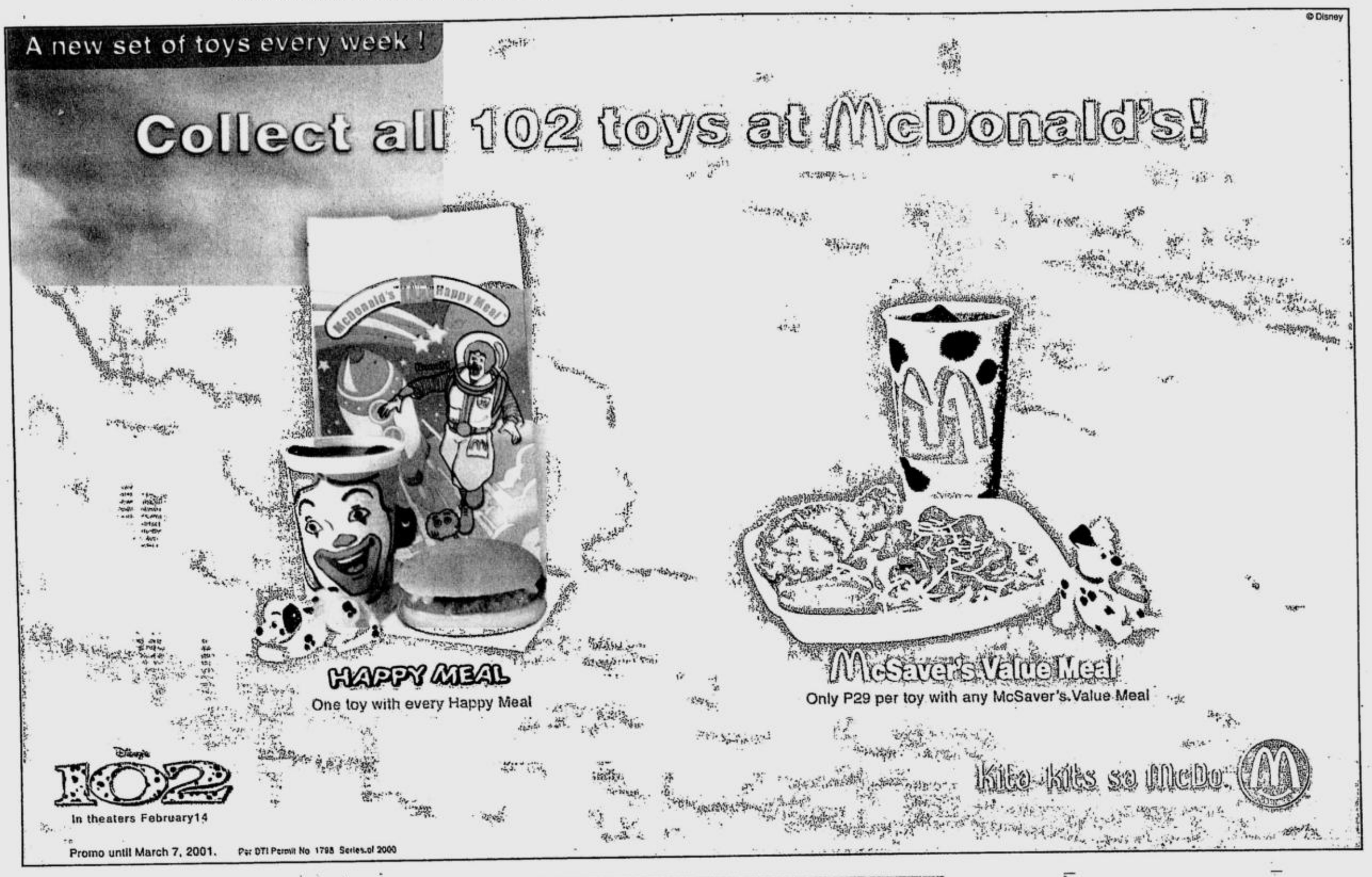
TO HELP fill the growing demand for schoolteachers in the United States, JS Contractor Inc. and Texas-based Omni Consortium Inc./Multiculture Professional Limited Liability Co. (MPLLC) have banded together to offer the Functional Academic Skills Test (FAST) to qualified teacher applicants on April 8 at the Philippine International Convention Center. US education officials from FAST will be in Manila to administer the exam.

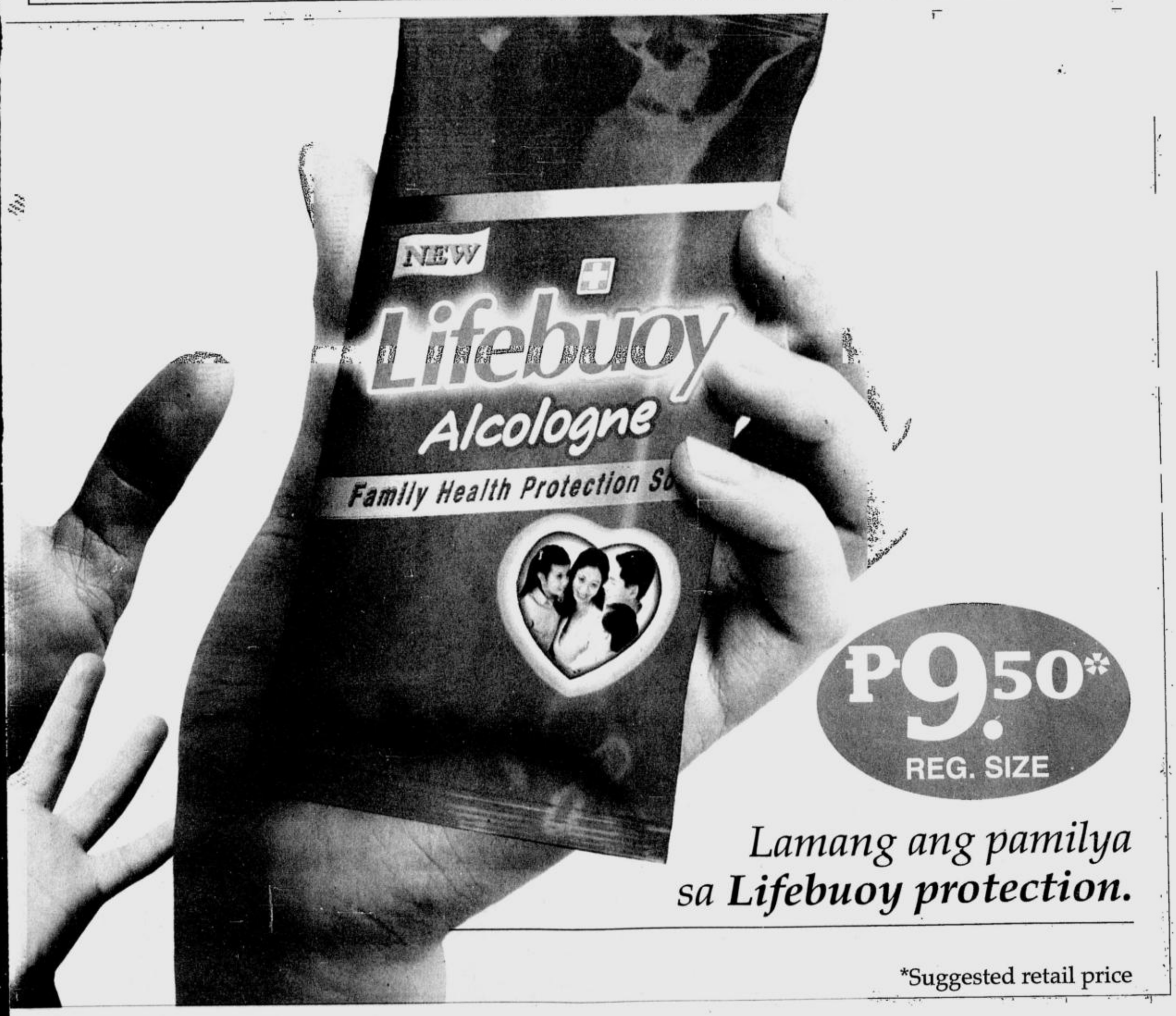
FAST is one of several qualifying exams for US state teaching professionals. To qualify, applicants must be a BA or BS degree graduate from any accredited college or university, with a GPA of 2.5 and must have at least two years actual teaching experience.

The JS Contractor-MPLLC partnership seeks to bring qualified Filipino education professionals to teach math, science, special education, reading, English and bilingual education in Texas. The Houston Independent School District, covering some 137 school campuses, has reported teacher vacancies of up to 12,000 last year.

Application forms are available at JS Contractor Inc. at Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila. Forms and other requirements must be submitted by March 8. Review classes will be held on April 4, 5 and 6.

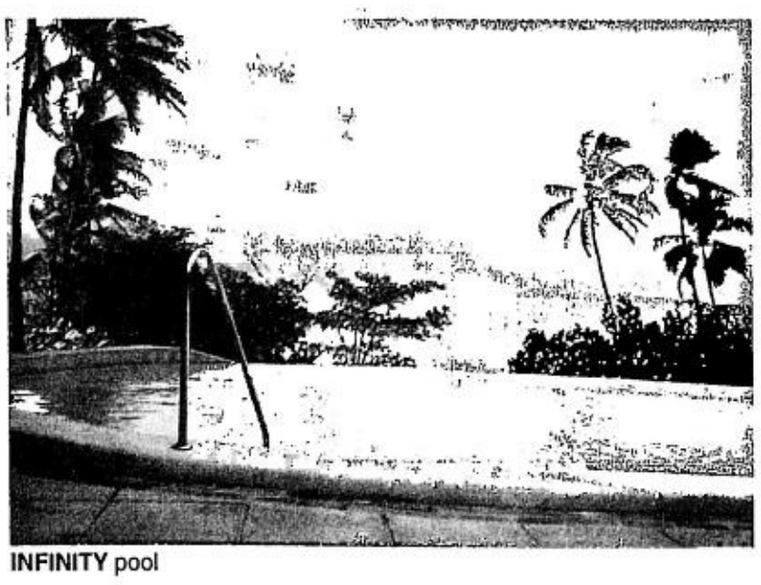
Teaching professionals who pass FAST and succeeding interviews with US school district officials here will be provided working visas. The teachers will then be deployed to grade schools and high schools in Texas for the 2002 school term. Starting salaries are at $35,000 per annum. Teachers will not pay income taxes for the first two years of their stay.



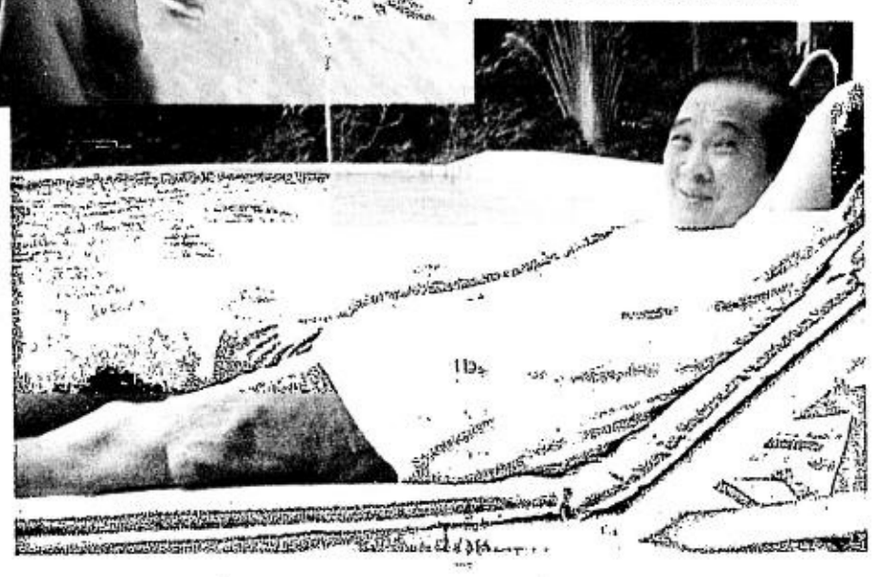


DIANE Jose Manglapus, Malu Maglutac and Bambi Quema

NONIE and Charlize Dizon



INFINITY pool



ROY Chiongbian

Life on this island

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

DO you need a break from the hustle and bustle of city life? We did so we drove south to the Batangas pier and boarded a motorized banca. We were relaxed when we arrived in this scuba-diving paradise called Verde Island, located right across Puerto Galera.

Joining us on our trip were **Lito Pastor**, whose family has owned the island since the 1800s, **Raulito** and **Diane Manglapus**, **Iryne Garcia**, **Roy Chiongbian**, **Malu Maglutac** and other sun worshippers.

If you don't enjoy scuba-diving, you can just bathe in the resort's sprawling infinity pool which offers a picture-perfect view of the gorgeous sunset.

And the cottages on stilts are in harmony with the surroundings, offering a comfortable vacation home. Verde Island is indeed a perfect getaway destination.

IRYNE Garcia

KERWIN Cuevas and Geoff Simpson

OWNER Lito Pastor

MALU and Gabby Estrella

CHIQUI, Larry and Mike

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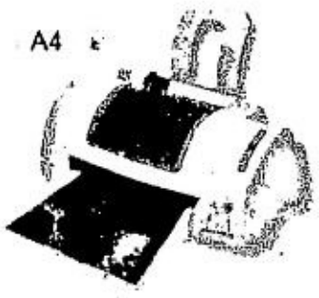
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MANAGERIAL

CONNECT SOLUTIONS
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Established in August, 1999 with one mission in mind, Networking Your Business, has enabled CSI to be focused into providing solutions in the Net Economy. With the business in mind of Connecting the corporation electronically, CSI entered into strategic partnership with industry leading vendors such as Sun Microsystems, Foundry Networks and CacheFlow. Additionally, with the professional services, CSI provide consulting services on cross platform integration, network security design, portal design and other implementation.

Sales Manager

The Sales Manager will be responsible for the development and relationship management of strategic accounts and channel partners in achieving sales quota. He/she will spearhead joint efforts in rolling out business plans and create strategic alliances that involved principals, solution providers and resellers. He/she will be directly responsible for managing and motivating the sales team. This position offers a challenging opportunity for a highly matured leader with the ability to execute sales strategies to the identified market segments.

Qualifications:
- ✓ Degree or Master in Computer Science/Marketing/Commerce with 5 years working experience in IT sales-related industry
- ✓ Experience in channel coverage and wide reseller contacts will be an added advantage
- ✓ Analytical with good business acumen and leadership skills
- ✓ Sound knowledge of technologies and IT hardware and software products and solutions

Account Managers

The Account Manager is responsible for achieving sales quota through execution of sales plan to penetrate into assigned accounts. He/she must be able to manage and maintain excellent rapport and relationship with customers and vendors. He/she must be able to produce business proposals to channel partners and develop them into strategic partners.

Qualifications:
- ✓ Degree in IT or business related field with at least 2 years working experience in IT sales related industry
- ✓ Understanding of Internet infrastructure, UNIX, connectivity and applications, and networking
- ✓ Must possess good interpersonal; oral and written skills
- ✓ Customer-oriented and a strong team player
- ✓ Familiar with sales cycle

Product Marketing Managers

The Product Marketing Manager will be responsible for the slaes performance of the assigned product group. He/she will work closely with the principal/vendors to achieve product targets through forecasting product demand and supply, product costing as well as effective pricing strategy. Other responsibilities include inventory management, product marketing and product training.

Qualifications:
- ✓ Degree in Marketing or IT related field with at least 2 years working experience in IT sales-related industry or a product marketing function
- ✓ Good product management and inventory skills
- ✓ Analytical and independent with strong negotiation skills
- ✓ Have good knowledge of competitors' products and other marketing intelligence

Pre-Sales Consultant

The Pre-Sales Consultant will play an instrumental role in securing major project and wins by providing technical consultation. Amongst the responsibilities are:
- ➢ Preparation of product technical specifications for customers.
- ➢ Preparation of proposals and Systems Hardware configuration.
- ➢ Conducting customer product update session.
- ➢ Preparation of Tender proposals.
- ➢ Conducting product demonstrations.
- ➢ Sizing of hardware specifications of distributed products.
- ➢ Solution specification preparation for infrastructure and network security.
- ➢ Benchmarking exercises.
- ➢ Solutions demonstrations.
- ➢ Architecting for storage systems.

Qualifications:
- ✓ Degree in IT or Computer related field with at least 3 years working experience in post or pre-sales at a computer vendor environment
- ✓ Experience and knowledge in Unix type systems, Database systems, networking, client/server and IT solutions
- ✓ Good communication and presentation skills
- ✓ Mature, independent and resourceful person with strong passion for IT related subject areas
- ✓ Wide knowledge of different IT Architecture and working knowledge of SUN and Solaris products is an advantage
- ✓ Customer oriented and a strong team player

Marketing Specialist/ Web Developer

Responsible for executing and managing all elements of communication compaigns for print, online, trade exhibits and product launchings. Will be tasked to design and execute computer graphic artwork for communication, information and training purposes. Design graphic/graphic elements in media to create innovative and visually compelling marketing communication materials. Provides creative input to the design of products such as trade exhibits and product launching. Will be responsible for the design and maintenance of the company website.

Qualifications:
- ✓ At least 1 to 2 years experience in web design or graphic design.
- ✓ Must have excellent writing skills (copywriting) and media relations background.
- ✓ Experience in Web Interface Technologies such as Java Script, HTML, etc.
- ✓ Familiar with market research, copywriting and should be aggressive, hardworking, a team player and a multi-tasker with the ability to track and meet multiple concurrent deadline schedules.
- ✓ Adept in the use of Photoshop, PageMaker, CorelDraw and other industry-standard graphic software.

Technical Support/Systems Engineer

As a Technical Support/Systems Engineer, you are required to provide technical support, system troubleshooting and implementation for e-business/e-commerce infrastructure based projects. You will deploy hardware, software, and network systems for the clients, assist in diagnosing and troubleshooting/resolving systems/network problems.

Qualifications:
- ✓ Degree in IT or Computer related field with at least 2 years experience as technical support or systems engineer
- ✓ Knowledge in designing and implementing networked systems; and problem solving methodology
- ✓ Knowledge of Internet, LAN/WAN and data communications equipment function
- ✓ Pleasant personality with good communication skills
- ✓ Matured, customer oriented, team player, disciplined with strong troubleshooting skills

If you are the person we are looking for, please write-in or e-mail with a detailed resumé, stating qualifications, experience, current and expected salaries together with a non-returnable photograph to.

The HR Manager
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Suite 2503 25/F, West Tower
Philippine Stock Exchange Centre
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- ➢ Must have the capacity and energy for overtime work.
- ➢ Must have good oral and written communication skills.
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- ➢ Must be computer literate (MAC-based).

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (R-HRDM)

- ➢ Female, between 26 to 35 years old.
- ➢ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or any related course.
- ➢ Minimum of (3) three years experience in a similar capacity, handling all facets of Human Resource Training and Development.
- ➢ With strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills.
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, with impeccable integrity and of good moral character.
- ➢ Must be computer literate.

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS (R-HRS)

- ➢ Female, between 24 to 30 years old.
- ➢ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science/Studies or any related course.
- ➢ With at least (1) one year work experience in the same field.
- ➢ Must be flexible and able to deal well with all levels of organization.
- ➢ Must be willing to work on weekends and holidays.
- ➢ Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality.
- ➢ Must be computer literate.

Please send your application with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo through mail to:

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- 25 to 30 years of age
- with at least 5 years related experience in local purchasing
- Good communication skills
- Proficient in Windows applications
- Willing to be relocated in Laguna

ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS MANAGER
- Male/Female; 25 to 30 years of age
- Marketing or business related course graduate; preferably with MBA degree
- Minimum of 2 years experience as a Marketing Service Manager in a consumer electronics industry or related experience in directly managing PR programs, events, concept execution of promotional activities and dealings with agencies

MIS ASSISTANT MANAGER (1)
MIS STAFF (13)
- Male/Female; 25 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any business or related computer course
- with at least 2 years hands-on experience (for Asst. Mgr) and 1 year experience (for Staff) in SAP R/3 Modules (FI, CO, SD, MM, PP)
- Good communication skills
- Willing to be relocated in Laguna

PLEASE E-MAIL COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ with 2x2 PICTURE and OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS TO:
THE HRD MANAGER
E-mail Address: luz@samsung.co.kr

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER (1)
- Male/Female
- BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate from a reputable school
- Not more than 35 years of age
- with at least 5 years related experience in handling HR functions
- With above average communication interpersonal skills
- Proficient in Windows applications
- Willing to be relocated in Laguna

MIS MANAGER (1)
- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years of age
- Graduate of any business or related computer course
- with at least 5 years hands-on experience in SAP R/3 Modules (FI, CO, SD, MM, PP)
- With above average communication skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF (1)
- Male/Female; 21 to 28 years old
- Certified Public Accountant
- with at least 2 years experience
- Good communication skills
- Proficient in Windows applications
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to be relocated in Laguna

SALES BRANCH MANAGER (Davao)
- Male/Female
- Not more than 35 years of age
- Graduate of any business course
- With at least 3 years experience in sales and marketing of consumer electronic products
- Proficient in Windows applications
- With excellent verbal and written communication skills

MANAGERIAL

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MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

(Schedule of Interviews: Every Mondays & Wednesdays)

- Male/Female between 23-30 years old.
- Marketing or Business Administration graduate of leading schools and universities.
- Fluent in oral and written English communication.
- Preferably with work experience in retailing or food chain operations or other service-oriented establishment.
- Honest and with strong leadership skill.
- Those without experience but have strong interest in handling store operations may also apply.

AD & PROMO ASSISTANT

(Schedule of Interview: March 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2001)

- Male/Female; not more than 30 years old.
- Masscom or Advertising graduate from a reputable school.
- Knowledgeable of advertising requirements, observations and conceptualizing/ implementing market planning, promotion and launching campaigns.
- Can develop creative and effective advertising concepts.
- Excellent in oral and written communication.
- At least 2-3 years work experience in advertising agency.
- Result oriented, aggressive, creative and can work independently.

TRAINING SPECIALIST

(Schedule of Interview: March 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2001)

- Male/Female; not more than 30 years old.
- Graduate of BS Psychology, Behavioral Science, Journalism or any related courses.
- Can prepare/design training manuals and programs for retail company.
- With at least one-year work experience as Trainor Specialist for a fast food or related industry.
- Self-starter, resourceful and able to work under minimum supervision.

SECRETARIES

(Schedule of Interview: March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2001)

- Female, single, preferably below 26 years old.
- Graduate of Office Administration or any related course; computer literate.
- Can compose business correspondence and take dictation.

POST AUDIT / FIELD AUDIT CLERK

(Schedule of Interview: March 6, 13, 20 & 28, 2001)

- Male; not more than 30 years old.
- Accounting graduate from a reputable school.
- Experienced in Audit work is an advantage.
- Computer literate.
- Self-starter, resourceful and able to work under minimum supervision.

Please come for interview from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and bring your Resume, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2-colored picture to:

2214 Tolentino Street, Pasay City
Or call Ms. Jacel at
Tel. No. 894-38-22 / 887-23-11 loc. 168/103

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR THE CLEAN AIR PARTNERSHIP

A multisectoral group of stakeholders consisting of private business, nongovernmental organizations and institutions is interested in promoting cleaner air for the Metro Manila air shed. We are looking to recruit an Executive Director to manage and operate the Clean Air Partnership.

The Executive Director should be a proven self-starter with good experience in developing, delivering, and coordinating awareness raising campaigns. The selected individual will:

- act as the official representative of the Partnership in dealing with other agencies, organizations and/or groups and has primé responsibility over a Secretariat;
- be responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating campaigns, events, activities and programs that are approved by the Partnership;
- address, evaluate, and establish the various sources of funding and revenues as may be required for operations;
- ensure coordination between the Partnership and external agencies, organizations and/or groups and among the Partners themselves; and
- prepare periodic reports on all activities to the Partnership.

The position will initially be for a 1-year period under a contract funded by the Asian Development Bank. Renewal will depend upon the performance of the selected incumbent.

Applicants should send biodata and other supporting information to: **Mr. Charles M. Melhuish**, Infrastructure, Energy and Financial Sectors Department (East), Asian Development Bank, P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila or email cmelhuish@adb.org, tel. no.: 632-6803, fax no.: 632-6318.

FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
Fostering Partnerships for the Environment

The Foundation for the Philippine Environment, an NGO National Environmental Fund, is in need of

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Position Summary:

The position carries responsibility for the over-all management of project activities and delivery of expected outputs, in coordination with the executing and implementing agents. Leads the project team; manage committed staff for the operationalization of project, establish and maintain good working and learning relationship across the partner NGOs and POs, with government and other organizations.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience:

College graduate with background in Forestry, Biology, Marine Science, Environmental Studies, Ecology and other related courses; graduate course or units on these areas highly desirable. At least 3 to 5 years experience in project management activities, preferably with exposure to environment-related projects. Previous supervisory or management experience preferred.

Skills and Abilities:

- Oral and written communication
- Negotiation
- Coordination and Collaboration
- Can understand and speak local languages of the area
- Computer literate

Please mail your application letter, bio-data, transcript of records and latest 2x2 color photograph to:

The Human Development Officer
FOUNDATION FOR THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENT
77 Matahimik Street, Teachers' Village, Diliman, Quezon City
or at e-mail address:
fpe@info.com.ph
or
(Cebu Office)
Room 305 NDI Commercial Building, AS Fortuna Street, Mandaue City
Applications must be received not later than 01 March 2001.
Previous applicants need not apply.
We will respond to qualified applicants only.
No telephone inquiry will be entertained.

One of the leading software company is in need of top caliber **Marketing System Consultants**.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably from a reputable school.
- Fluent in English
- Accounting or Marketing graduate
- Not more than 30 years old.
- Have an experience in Sales or Marketing is a plus factor.
- With personal car is an advantage.
- With pleasing personality.

Qualified applicants may come and visit us from 8:30 to 5:30 - Monday to Friday with their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and other credentials with two (2) 2x2 pictures to:

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS INT'L., INC.
Suite 809, Antel Global Corporate Center
J. Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 634-4785/634-4795/634-5449
635-7628
Fax No.: 635-7852
info@acctgsoft.com

UNIWELL TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION

Pioneer distributor of
Honeywell & OVAL Flowmeters

A long and well-established specialist in Automation and Instrumentation, needs:

SALES APPLICATION ENGINEERS

For Building Aircon Controls, Industrial Controls & Instrumentation

ME, CHE, EE, ECE graduates from reputable schools who don't mind frequent travelling, people oriented, aggressive, hardworking, at least 2 years experience in sales, preferably Instrumentation and/or Building Controls, w/ a good track record and competent in making sales/technical presentations to large groups.

Attractive compensation commensurate to experience, qualifications & productivity, includes incentives, bonuses, transportation and entertainment allowances, hospitalization benefits and accident insurance. We also provide on-the-job training plus opportunities for training abroad with our principals.

A technically exciting and financially rewarding career in Application Engineering. Plus, you won't find a better family to get yourself adopted into. Work in an environment of fun, learning and earning to the max!

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resume, transcript of records & recent ID photo to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 13241
Ortigas Center Post Office
Pasig City 1600
or e-mail us at: **uniwell@info.com.ph**

NERA TELECOMMUNICATIONS

"Changing the way we communicate."

NERA is a world leader in the development, manufacture and sales of microwave radio and satellite communications banking its expertise based on innovative technology and more than 50 years of experience in the world market. In the Philippines, its presence is increasingly expanding and aggressively addressing the need in the telecom industry.

Currently, we are looking for additional team players for the following :

FIELD ENGINEERS

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. must be a graduate of BS ECE;
2. with at least 2 years in RF transmission preferably in microwave radio;
3. must be willing to accept provincial work assignment;
4. must be computer literate on basic windows programs;
5. knowledge or experience on AUTO CADD an advantage;
6. excellent command in verbal and written communications;

TECHNICIANS

(Rigger, Indoor/Outdoor Installer)

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. must be HS graduate;
2. male, at least 25 - 30 years old;
3. with at least 2 years experience in installation;
4. must be willing to accept provincial work assignment;

These are urgent requirements. Interested applicants are requested to submit by mail or email their personal profile with recent passport picture to :

Nera Philippines, Inc.
10th Floor Unit 1004 Antel 2000
121 Valero St. Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No 7509812 / Fax No. 7509417
Email : tes@neraphil.com.ph

We take pride in being ranked by the *Far Eastern Economic Review* as the *No. 1 in OVERALL LEADERSHIP* among the Top 10 Philippine companies doing business in Asia. The 1998 PMAP *"EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR"* awardee, **Jollibee** was also cited as No. 1 in *"Innovative in Responding to Customer Needs"* and *No. 1 in "Company Others Try to Emulate."*

Jollibee.

Recognized by the World Economic Forum as the *"GLOBAL GROWTH COMPANY,"* we invite you to join the ranks of highly successful individuals of the **No. 1** food chain. We need high caliber individuals to play very critical role in this growth as:

DATA CENTER MANAGER (I.T. Mgr)

Shall oversee day to day operations of data center composed of mid-range Unix servers and network servers. Tasks include System, Network and Database Administration and Internet e-mail. At least 3 years experience as data center manager using AIX, Informix and Windows Exchange is likewise desired.

SUPPORT ENGINEERS (I.T. Sup)

Candidate shall perform database design and support for Informix and Microsoft SQL. Experience in using OLAP tools is a MUST. At least 3 years experience as systems engineer for Informix in Unix environment and Microsoft SQL.

IM-QA SPECIALIST (IMQA)

Our search is focused on highly qualified individuals who shall be responsible for formulating QA policies, manuals and plans with Software Development Methodologies in mind. The candidate will be tasked to oversee verification and validation of software, perform QA reviews and define QA procedures for IM projects. 2 to 3 years work related experience is desired.

COMPENSATION ANALYST (C.A.)

Selected candidate shall be in charge of computing and analysis of company-wide labor cost (performance vs. projected) and will provide proper insights and recommendations. He/She will also be tasked to provide economic and business analysis in the review of the company's compensation package (CBA and non-CBA) and will also handle design, development and maintenance of HR reporting systems (C&B cost analysis, manpower complement and other HR statistics). The position requires 1-2 years experience in financial, economic or compensation analysis, very good computer skills and knowledgeable in Systems Development (Dbase Management). Preferably a graduate of Economics or Industrial Engineering.

QUALITY and HYGIENE SYSTEMS SPECIALIST (QHS)

The position requires knowledge and experience in providing technical assistance in the achievement of consistent product quality delivery and good sanitation in the food industry through management of identified development and improvement projects focused on Quality and Hygiene systems and procedures. Preferably BS Food Science or Microbiology graduate.

SYSTEMS SPECIALIST (SYS)

With a degree in Inustrial Engineering or Mechanical Engineering, highly flexible and a very result-oriented person will be tasked to handle time studies, facilities design and equipment evaluation among others. Candidate must also be proficient in MS Office.

ACCOUNTANTS (ACCT.)

With a degree in Accountancy earned in a highly reputable school, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA) you are enthusiastic about putting your academic learning to practical use in a company like us, that recognizes and rewards talent and hardwork. You boast of good scholastic records and show marked potential for higher responsibilities later on. One year experience in general accounting and bookkeeping will be an advantage.

CORPORATE AUDITOR (CAU.)

A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with at least 1 year internal/external audit experience. Selected candidate will assist the Corporate Audit Manager in his planning, organizing, directing and controlling activities which include the review and evaluation of existing control systems and procedures.

Qualified candidates may send their updated Resumé, photocopy of Official Transcript of Records and recent ID photo to:

HR Main Office (Code: _____)
JOLLIBEE FOODS CORPORATION
3rd Floor, Jollibee Centre, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph (Subject: JOLLIBEE)

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MANAGERIAL

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DBS. Singapore's largest and most progressive bank. Founded on strong Asian success values. Fired by a daring global spirit. To be world-class and outstanding in one of the most promising regions of the world - Asia. It's where I am given a key role to complete one big picture of success. A role where I can inject all my energy, creativity and passion. Feel challenged? Good, let's hear from you.

Information Technology Group

ITG - Applications A

IT ANALYST/SENIOR IT ANALYST *(PDI 180201/07A)*

- Applications Development

You will be involved in the development of a range of innovative products and services. This covers co-ordinating and liaising with various departments on requirements, programming and design, systems implementation and project management. There will be opportunities for regional travel for short-term assignment in the Asia Pacific region.

Requirements:
- A good University Degree with experience in one or more of the following areas:
  - Retail Banking applications (e.g. Savings & Current Account, Electronic Delivery Channels such as ATM, Kiosk, Phonebank, Internet Banking, Mobile Banking, etc.)
  - Mainframe MVS or OS/390, COBOL, CICS, VSAM, DB2
  - Win NT, MS SQL, Unix, C/C++, Java, PowerBuilder and Visual Basic
- Candidates with extensive years of experience will be considered for senior positions

REMUNERATION

We offer a competitive remuneration package which includes attractive bonuses, subsidised loans, medical benefits, annual leave, local and overseas holiday bungalows, the unique DBS Share Ownership Scheme and long-term incentives programme.

There will be ample training and development opportunities for staff to develop their potential in line with our business needs.

APPLICATION

You are invited to e-mail or fax your full resume including detailed employment history, qualifications, current and expected salaries together with a recent photograph to:

E-mail: hrpsrec@dbs.com
Fax: 65-557 2721

Please indicate the reference number in your application.

(We regret that only shortlisted candidates will be notified.)

For our full portfolio of careers and application, check out:

www.careers.dbs.com

DBS is the largest banking group in Southeast Asia. With an Aa2 rating from Moody's, an A+ from Standard & Poor's and an AA- from Fitch IBCA, it is ranked amongst the world's top 100 banks.

DBS BANK

We're Building A World-Class Bank In Asia.

The Transnational Diversified Group (TDG) is a Philippine-based conglomerate of dynamic and forward-looking corporations engaged in widely diverse businesses such as international shipping, air and sea cargo forwarding, ship management, travel and tourism, realty development, securities, and food service, among others.

For the year 2001 we are looking for highly-motivated and top-caliber individuals to join our expanding organization.

CORPORATE PLANNING OFFICER

Candidates must be graduates of management, economics, accounting or engineering, between 23 to 35 years old; with at least a year's experience in the preparation of project feasibility studies, financial analyses and operations reviews. Those with strategic planning experience will have an advantage.

FRANCHISE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Preferably Male, between 23-25 years old; with 2 years experience in Franchising, Site Development, Feasibility Studies or Lease Negotiation; superior in writing reports and site analyses; selling experience is an advantage.

TRAVEL COUNSELORS / RESERVATION & TICKETING AGENTS

Candidates must be a graduate of BS Tourism; at least 2 years experience in flight reservations, hotel accommodation and knowledgeable in CRS; must be good in oral and written communication skills.

PURCHASING OFFICER

Male/ Female preferably Single; graduate of any four years course; at least 3 years experience in inventory planning and control with Chinese Network/ Connections; should have excellent communication and negotiating skills; those with purchasing experience in the food service industry will be preferred.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Candidates must be graduates of a four-year course; must possess excellent communication skills; with pleasing personality; computer literate; preferably owns a car and willing to be assigned in Cavite and Laguna area.

QUALITY OFFICER

Graduate of Industrial Engineering; preferably Male, between 24-28 years old; with at least 2 years hands-on experience in Methods Improvement, ISO 9000 and Training; must be computer literate and with superior oral and written communication skills.

CUSTOMER SERVICE REP.

Applicants should be graduates of a four-year course. He/she must be good in oral and written communication skills, should be organized, computer literate and personable. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

INTERNAL AUDITORS

Candidates must be CPAs; between 23 to 35 years old; with at least a year's experience in computer auditing and in internal and external auditing. Willing to work overtime and can work under pressure.

ACCOUNTANTS

Candidates must be CPAs'; graduate of BS Accountancy from a reputable school; at least 1 to 2 years related work experience; hardworking, independent, resourceful, assertive and honest; must be good in oral and written communication skills and must be computer literate.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Candidates must be graduates of BS Accountancy; between 21-25 years old; preferably with experience in bookkeeping and general accounting; must be computer literate. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

LEGAL ASSISTANT

Preferably Male, graduate of any four-year business course; between 20-25 years old; must be good in oral and written communication skills; computer literate and willing to work overtime and can work under pressure.

CASHIER

Female; graduate of BS Accountancy; hardworking, independent, resourceful, assertive and honest. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

Preferably Female, graduate of any four-year course; good in oral and written communication skills, computer literate, trainable, willing to work long hours, self-motivated and with a pleasant voice. Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Attractive compensation packages, group life insurance, a healthcare program, training and scholarship programs await successful candidates.

Due to the urgency of these requirements, interested applicants are requested to submit a letter of application and a comprehensive resume with 2 recent ID photos on or before March 10, 2001 to:

HRD OFFICE, TRANSNATIONAL DIVERSIFIED GROUP, INC.
2/F Mary Bachrach Building, 25th cor. A.C. Delgado Sts., Port Area, Manila
Beside the Manila Hotel
E-mail: hrd@tdgworld.com
url: http://www.tdgworld.com
Telephone nos. 527-8888 or 527-5306

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

ADB

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region

GOVERNMENT LIAISON ASSISTANT

The Position

- Maintains direct liaison with various government agencies particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in order to facilitate the processing and release of documents principally connected with the privileges and immunities of ADB and staff in accordance with the Headquarters Agreement between the ADB and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines;
- Attends to government liaison-related activities;
- Files notices of arrivals and departures of principal officers;
- Processes inbound and outbound shipment by obtaining endorsements and approval of the Certificate of Guarantee (COG) and Exit Clearance (EC) from the BOC; and
- Obtains approval of DOF for requests for incoming official and personal sea shipments.

The Requirements

- Four-year college degree;
- At least 3 years' experience in public relations activities preferably liaison with the Philippine Government agencies, basic knowledge of government policies, guidelines, procedures and regulations in import/export, and basic knowledge and understanding of reception and departure activities; experience in areas dealing with diplomatic entities will be an asset;
- Personable and fluent in oral and written English and Filipino;
- Knowledgeable in computer applications; and
- Prepared to work irregular hours and face constant exposure to extreme working conditions, daily travel to and from Government offices, daily interaction with Government offices under difficult working conditions.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from over 45 member countries. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package. For further information, please visit www.adb.org and look for Employment under Resources.

Send CV and cover letter by fax or mail quoting Ref. No. 01-02CS by 2 March 2001 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
E-mail: ss-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Online submissions should be in MS Word format

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified

MEDICard

MEDICard PHILS INC.
One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

COMPANY PHYSICIAN

Male, should be a resident of Laguna or Carmona, Cavite;
General Pratitioner or Family Medicine Specialist;
Willing to work night shift. Preferably with own car.

CLAIMS SUPERVISOR

Male or Female. Must be a graduate of Accounting;
With 1 year supervisory experience in the same capacity preferably gained in an HMO setting;
Well versed in claims processing. With above-average numerical and verbal skills;
Must be computer literate.

CLAIMS PROCESSOR

Female, not more than 29 yrs old. Must be a graduate of BS Accounting;
With at least 6 months experience in the same field;
With good interpersonal skills, dependable and organize;
Must be proficient in Windows application.

Nurse

Female, not more than 28 yrs old; Must be a registered nurse;
With at least 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
Willing to be assigned in Libis, Quezon City.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo not later than March 10, 2001 at:
Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department
8/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City.
or email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

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A dynamic & fast-growing H.K. manufacturer of Electrical Household Appliance and OEM Products is seeking for the following positions:

Senior Mechanical Engineer
- Diploma or above in mechanical engineering
- Minimum 3 years experience in Mechanical for Household Electrical Appliances
- Familiar with UL and EN standards
- Experience in AutoCAD & pro-engineer drafting, mechanical parts design & evaluation
- Feasibility study on new technology for design
- Must be fluent in oral & written English

Project/ Design Engineer
- Polytechnic graduate in Mechanical / Manufacturing / Electrical Engineering
- At least 2 years working experience
- Experience in design for Household Electrical Appliances
- Good Knowledge in product safety approval, such as UL/VDE/BS etc.
- Strong in project follow up skill
- Mature with good communication skill
- Self motivated and can work independently
- Knowledge for technical drawing
- Good command of English

Interested parties please apply with full resume, current/ expected Salary to: Personnel Manager, Unit 9, 7th Floor CRE Centre, 889 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong or e-mail to general@smartlite.com.hk or fax at (852) 2743-3819 or mail to Makati City PO Box No. 1024

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MANAGERIAL

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EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client is looking for dynamic and highly qualified candidates for the position of

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

THE JOB:

Reporting to the President, the hired candidate shall be tasked to oversee and effectively manage the day to day operations of the hospital and to develop it into a four star hospital.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

The ideal candidate must be between 40 to 55 years old. He or she must have a Master's degree in Hospital Administration or Business Administration, with 5 to 10 years professional experience, preferably in administration and crisis management. He or she must have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and have an established network of contacts in the health care industry. Leadership ability, with a strong drive to get things organized and going, are additional requisites of the job.

The company offers a competitive compensation and benefits package and a rewarding career. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumés with application letters, including contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph (indicate code on the envelope **HAdmin-18feb**) *on or before March 10, 2001* to:

Institutional Synergy, Inc.
Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Or e-mail to: execsearch@insync.com.ph

(We will only reply to those considered for interview)

LEGAL OFFICER

A multi-national Corporation with its presence in 88 countries, is in search of a Legal Officer for its Philippine Office.

DO NOT APPLY UNLESS

- You are an experienced litigator;
- You preferably have in-house corporate experience;
- You have been an admitted practitioner for at least 5 years;
- You are capable of working independently as you will formally report to the Director for Legal Affairs abroad; and
- You can produce your academic and employment credentials.

The Company offers a very competitive employment package. To be considered, your application must confirm the above requirements with your expected salary clearly stated and one recent passport-size photo attached. Applicants are advised to send applications (preferably with e-mail address) on or before **March 15, 2001** to:

The Office of the Director for Legal Affairs
Legal Affairs Department
GoldQuest International Limited
5th Floor, Mass Mutual Tower
38 Gloucester Road
HONG KONG - SAR.

SVI *Success rests on what you know and how you use what you know.*

You live for the challenge of putting your knowledge into use. At SVI, we help you maximize your talents and expertise for your gains.

We are looking for a dynamic and highly qualified professional for the Senior Programmer position.

THE PROFILE: The ideal candidate must have a Masters degree in Business Administration. With at least 4 years of relevant sales and marketing experience in the IT industry. He/She must be knowledgeable in various operating systems such as Windows 95 (98)/NT and UNIX. Preferably proficienct in JAVA, C language and systems design. Fluency in both written and spoken English and Japanese (at least 5,000 Kanji words) is a must.

THE OFFER: We offer competitive compensation and benefits package and a rewarding career.

If you think you qualify for the position, kindly submit your résumés, transcript of records and 1X1 ID photo to:
The Human Resources Department,
38/F JMT Corporate Condominium, ADB Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City

SOFTWARE VENTURES INTERNATIONAL

CINNABON

Have you got what it takes to work with the Best ?

We are in need of

BAKERY ASSOCIATES
Dynamic, hardworking, Flexible, can speak English, College Level and love to interact with people.
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ACCOUNTING MANAGER
CPA, preferably with experienced in Food Industry

MARKETING MANAGER
Marketing graduate or any related course, preferably with experience in Food Industry

Personally submit or send resume, school records and 2x2 picture to :
CANELLE FOOD CORPORATION
2nd floor AICA Bldg.
68 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Palanan, Makati City

A fast expanding International Company based in HongKong with offices in Manila, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Bangkok, Jakarta, UAE and Australia invites top-calibre IT professionals to present their application for

1. Position : **NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR (NetAd) [1]**
   Reporting to : MIS Manager
   Function : *Over-all administration, set-up and maintenance of IT Networking Systems (Philippines and Asian Offices)*

   Job Description:
   - Directly sets-up, maintains, and trouble shoots (LAN/WAN)
   - Designs, sets-up and maintains all FIREWALL SYSTEMS
   - Secured remote access experience (ex: VPN)
   - Fault tolerant data storage and back up
   - Global E-mail administrator
   - E-Commerce Basis support
   - LDAP experience
   - Network security, connections and networking equipment

   Qualifications:
   - Male, 28 to 35 years old
   - Degree in BS Computer Engineering, ECE or Computer Science
   - Excellent oral and written communication skills
   - At least 1 year experience in LAN/WAN administration
   - Knowledge in E-Commerce and Web Technology
   - Expert in WIN NT/2000, UNIX or SUN network platforms
   - Experienced in setting up SERVER ARRAYS on multiple platforms
   - Strong analytical skills and can work long hours
   - Team Player

2. Position : **SQL DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR / DEVELOPER (SDBA) [1]**
   Reporting to : MIS Manager
   Function : *Development and Maintenance of the Company's Enterprise DataBase*

   Job Description:
   - Over-all administration, development and maintenance of MS SQL Database
   - Develop and implement efficient DB STORED PROCEDURES
   - Performing code review and making recommendations for optimization of DB performance
   - Performing system and database tuning
   - Deploy DB replication on a Global Scale
   - Proficient in implementing WEB-based DB applications

   Qualifications:
   - Male / Female; 28 to 35 years old
   - Degree in BS Computer Engineering, ECE or Computer Science
   - In-depth knowledge of the SQL database engine NT 4.0 or Windows 2000
   - Can set-up DBCC's, back-up and recovery procedures
   - Can perform code review and make recommendations for optimum performance
   - At least 2 years experience in DB Administration, data modelling and performance tuning in MS SQL Server 7.0 on WIN NT and WIN 2000
   - Knowledge in E-Commerce and Web Technology
   - Knowledge on the ff. an advantage:
     - Very Large Databases (VLDB) on Unix Platforms
     - Oracle 81
     - MS SQL Server 7.x
     - Large Data Warehouses
   - Strong analytical skills and can work long hours
   - Team Player

3. Position : **SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER (SSE) [1]**
   Reporting : MIS Manager
   Function : *Development and maintenance of FRONT-END applications*

   Job Description:
   - Over-all project lead for FRONT-END systems development
   - Direct project management and supervision
   - Programming, development and implementation of INTERNAL APPLICATIONS
   - Systems analysis and design
   - System documentation and packaging
   - Proficient in Web-based DB applications
   - Software deployment on a distributed network architecture (DNA)

   Qualifications:
   - Degree in BS Computer Engineering, ECE or Computer Science
   - Excellent oral and written communication skills
   - At least 2 years experience in VB Script, VB Front-end systems
   - Knowledge in E-Commerce and Web Technology
   - Experience other front-end system-Visual C++, Visual Java
   - Strong analytical skills and can work long hours
   - Team Player

The Company offers very competitive employment packages. To be considered, your application must confirm the above requirements with your expected salary clearly stated and one recent passport-size photo attached. As these are urgent needs, applicants are advised to send, fax or e-mail their applications on or before March 3, 2001 to:

HUMAN RESOURCE & ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
15th Floor Robinsons-Equitable Tower
ADB cor. Poveda Road, Ortigas Center, Quezon City
E-mail: **jay_hrd@hotmail.com / bernice_hrd@hotmail.com**
Fax No. 633-9254

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

is inviting applicants for the position of

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

for the Rizal Library of the Loyola Schools to start in May of 2001.

The ideal candidate is a professional (licensed) librarian with at least a Master's Degree and a proven track record in developing and implementing research and academic library policies and programs. With at least ten years of professional practice, s/he must have exemplary leadership and mentoring skills, effective interpersonal and communication skills, and good moral character.

The successful candidate is expected to supervise 50 full-time staff.

Interested candidates may apply for the position by sending the following: (a) an application cover letter, (b) updated *curriculum vitae*, and (c) names, addresses, and contact numbers of at least three professional references to:

Director, Personnel
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
ATTENTION: The Rizal Library Director Search Committee

Requirements may also be sent by e-mail to **mors@admu.edu.ph** or faxed to 426-1245.

Deadline for applications: 10 March 2001
For more information, please call 426-6001 local 4122.

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CLINIC SUPERVISOR

- Male or Female. At least 25 years old;
- Certified Medical Technologist;
- Experience in clinical setting needed;
- With pleasing personality and leadership capabilities;
- Must be computer literate.

LABORATORY SUPERVISOR

- Female or Male. At least 25 years old;
- At least 2 years experience in a clinical setting;
- Should possess strong leadership skills and must be computer literate.

CHIEF X-RAY TECH

- At least 25 years old;
- With at least 2 years experience in a hospital/ clinical setting;
- Computer literate.

REGISTERED NURSES

- At least 22 years old;
- Experience in a hospital/clinical setting preferred;
- Must be willing to go out of town;
- With pleasing personality.

REGISTERED MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST

- Between 20 and 25 years old
- Must be willing to go out of town;
- With pleasing personality

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to send resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at:

P.O. Box MK-58
Philippine Daily Inquirer
C/o Classified Ads Division
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Makati Avenue, Makati City

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CLINIC SUPERVISOR

- ☑ Registered Medical Technologist
- ☑ Must have an experience in an outpatient laboratory setting
- ☑ Female, at least 25 to 30 years old
- ☑ With pleasing personality
- ☑ Computer literate

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SALES ENGINEER / SALES MANAGER

- Degree in Mechanical or Chemical Engineering + min. 1-3 years relevant sales experience
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- Ability to interact and communicate at all levels
- PC literacy is essential
- Possesses own car
- Fresh graduates are also welcome

Interested candidates please e-mail or fax your detailed resumé to:

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Sciences	**English**	**Speech**
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Send or bring application with credentials and 2x2 picture to:

The School Administrator
Our Lord's Grace Montessori School & Colleges
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
or call **454-3843 / 454-6613 / 931-8950**
e-mail: olgm@nsclub.net

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ASSISTANT HRD MANAGER

- ✓ Female.
- ✓ Must be 35 years old and above.
- ✓ Graduate of Management or Psychology preferably with a Master Degree in Industrial Relations.
- ✓ With at least (3) three years experience in all phases of Human Resource Management and Training, preferably exposed in manufacturing company with over 1,000 employees is an advantage.

ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR (ASV) FOR PAYROLL AND BENEFITS

- ✓ Female.
- ✓ Must be 23 to 30 years of age.
- ✓ Graduate of Accounting.
- ✓ With at least (2) two years of relevant experience.
- ✓ Computer literate.
- ✓ Has leadership qualities and can handle people well.
- ✓ Aggressive, analytical and assertive.

ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR (ASV) FOR TRAINING

- ✓ Female, 23 to 30 years old.
- ✓ A graduate of Behavioral Science or BS Psychology.
- ✓ Must have an excellent communication skills.
- ✓ Can conduct training both in Tagalog or English.
- ✓ Can conduct training from rank and file.
- ✓ She must be a team player, articulate, mature and with sense of responsibility.
- ✓ Can communicate in all levels in the organization.
- ✓ Knowledge in evaluating training needs analysis.
- ✓ Can make training, modules.

You can mail or hand carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries call telephone no. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Mau or you can e-mail your resumé at lucelfernando@yahoo.com.

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The candidate must have the following:

- ☞ Passed the CPA licensure exams
- ☞ Knowledge in financial statement preparation & analysis/computer literate
- ☞ At least 1 year work experience as head of the accounting department
- ☞ Good command in written & oral communication

BOOKKEEPER

- ☞ Accounting graduate
- ☞ Computer literate
- ☞ With at least 1 year related work experience

COMPUTER PROGRAMMER

- ☞ Proficient in Windows programming
- ☞ Good in analysis & design
- ☞ With at least 1 year related work experience

Contact persons: Des or Aurora
MPCO Box 1646, 1256 Makati City
or call 8960970; 8960742/44; 8975269

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ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN

- ☑ Male, 21 to 25 years old.
- ☑ Graduate of B.S. Electrical Engineering
- ☑ Computer literate and has knowledge on motor controls and instrumentation.
- ☑ Willing to be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN

- ☑ Male, 21 to 25 years old.
- ☑ Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering.
- ☑ Computer literate and has knowledge on hydraulics, pneumatics and instrumentation.
- ☑ Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

PROCESS ENGINEERS

- ☑ Male, 20 to 30 years old.
- ☑ Graduate of B.S. Chemical Engineering; license is an advantage.
- ☑ With at least 2 years experience as Process Engineer or R&D Engineer gained from a manufacturing company. Experience from ITDI (Industrial Technical Development Institute) is a definite advantage.
- ☑ Willing to be assigned in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

BUDGET ANALYST

- ☑ Female, 23 to 30 years old.
- ☑ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy.
- ☑ Must have 1 to 2 years related work experience in Budget/Bookkeeping procedures. Computer literate on MS Word, Excel and Powerpoint.
- ☑ Place of assignment: Marilao, Bulacan.

H.R. ASSISTANT - TIMEKEEPING

- ☑ Male, 22 to 28 years old; graduate of any business or computer course.
- ☑ Must have well-rounded exposure focusing on payroll and timekeeping.
- ☑ Highly computer literate; keen on details and with good interpersonal skills.
- ☑ Willing to be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

H.R. ASSOCIATE/SUPERVISOR

- ☑ Male, 27 to 35 years old; B.S. Psychology graduate.
- ☑ With at least 3 to 5 years actual experience on H.R. handling OD (Organization Development) and Training in a manufacturing concern.
- ☑ Preferably with thorough knowledge of OD methodology.
- ☑ Computer literate and excellent interpersonal skills.
- ☑ Willing to be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR (STAINLESS FABRICATION)

- ☑ Male, 25 to 35 years old.
- ☑ Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering or related technical course.
- ☑ With at least 2 to 3 years experience in designing machines or equipment in a stainless steel fabrication company.
- ☑ With good English communication skills and knowledge in C.A.D. operations.
- ☑ Willing to be based in Quezon City plant.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST APPLY PERSONALLY TO:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
Ramcar Center, 80-82 Roces Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail: ebmuscat@ramcar.com

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We seek qualified people to fill the following vacancies for our 2001 business expansion program.

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Will be tasked to process loan applications, receive loan payments, attend to telephone inquiries and close loans. Preferably residents of Calamba, San Pablo, Cavite, Rizal, Cebu and Metro Manila

Credit Investigators/ Collectors

Will handle field and telephone loan collections and credit investigations.

Our basic requirements for all the positions are:

A bachelor's degree from a reputable school; computer literacy; fluency in oral and written English; excellent interpersonal skills; superior administrative and organizational skills; S/He should be trustworthy, responsible, flexible and assertive. The ability to work under pressure is a must.

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- One of the must have at least 2 years experience in the academe, or project, sales and marketing management

SALES/MARKETING OFFICERS
- 20 to 30 years old
- College graduate with good communication skills
- With experience in sales or marketing
- Willing to be trained in IT

IT TRAINING SPECIALISTS
- 20 to 40 years old
- B.S. Comp. Sci., Comp. Eng. graduate or any computer related course
- With good communication skills
- Knowledge in IT applications or any IT specialized field

ACCOUNTANTS
- Female, 20 to 30 years old
- Accounting graduate, preferably computer literate
- Willing to be trained in various accounting software
- CPA license an advantage

SERVICE OFFICERS
- Female 20 to 30 years old
- College graduate with good communication skills
- Willing to be trained in Information Technology
- Preferably with background in administrative work

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Male or Female 20 to 25 years old
- Working knowledge of graphic software (e.g. CorelDraw, Photoshop, PageMaker)
- Willing to handle other marketing tasks that maybe assigned
- New graduates are welcome
- *Will be assigned in our main office

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT: 2/F Security Bank Ortigas Building, 228 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M. • Tel. No. 727-0401 Fax 722-9490 or E-mail us at personnel@informatics.net.ph

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- Preferably with MBA or MHA units, with experience in Hospital Administration.
- Mature, independent with Managerial and Communication Skills.
- Computer literate.

(2) HOUSE ANESTHESIOLOGISTS
- M/F, not more than 35 years old.
- Preferably diplomat but not necessary.

OB-GYN RESIDENTS (Accredited Training)
PEDIA RESIDENTS (Accredited Training)
MEDICAL/SURGICAL RESIDENT (Moonlighting)
- Female, not more than 35 years old.
- With good aptitude and scholastic records.

(2) MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST
- M/F, Single, not more than 35 years old.
- With good aptitude and scholastic.

(1) ACCOUNTING CLERK
- M/F, Single, not more than 30 years old.
- Preferably with experience.

(1) ORDERLY
- Male, single, not more than 30 years old.
- Paramedic or Nursing Aide graduate

Previous applicants need not apply

Please submit personally your resumés, transcript and other credentials and latest 2x2 photo to the
Personnel Department,
No. 7 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: delgado

John Snow, Inc., a leading health-sector consulting firm based in Boston, Massachusetts and Washington D.C., seeks applicants for the position of:

SENIOR SYSTEMS ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

For the World Bank-funded Contract Distribution System (CDS) for Core Essential Drugs Project of the Department of Health. Fulltime assignment is for 9 months starting approximately March-2001. Interested parties are requested to email their application letters and comprehensive resumés (MS Word format) to cdsjsi@info.com not later than 2 March 2001.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide technical and management advisory assistance to the CDS Project and the Department of Health in the computerized distribution component of the logistics management information system of the project
2. Take the lead role in the enhancement and implementation of the system. This will comprise of the CDS LMIS framework that will interface with the Department's LMIS and other legacy systems, software development, network and software installation, user training, manuals preparation, system maintenance/enhancement and systems documentation.
3. Provide technical recommendations on the technology platform and configuration for the CDS LMIS software and synchronization of central and regional CDS LMIS databases.
4. Coordinate with the Procurement and Logistics Service, Information Management Service, Center for Health Development and other technical program service CDS counterpart staff to ensure that all strategic and operational information requirements and decision support mechanisms are incorporated into the design of the system.
5. Conduct training on the CDS LMIS for DOH designated CDS IT persons at the central and remote sites, in coordination with the DOH-IMS.
6. Identify and recommend solutions to the operational bottlenecks to ensure efficient and effective CDS LMIS operations.
7. Ensure the correct implementation of Project activities and timely submission of the Project's LMIS deliverables and other required reports to the Department of Health.

QUALIFICATIONS

The Senior Systems Analyst/Programmer must have the following qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or other related courses
- Extensive experience in preparing technical manuals, documentation and training curricula
- Knowledge/experience in implementing IT Projects under GOP conditions
- Experience in system integration, LAN/CAN design, development and implementation, Internet solutions with remote computing options
- Adeptness in technology platform, specifically to include the following:
  - Network Operating Systems: Windows NT Server
  - Communication Protocols: TCP/IP, FTP, NETBUEI
  - Network Configuration: LAN
  - Development Tools: Sybase PowerBuilder ver.7.0.2 or higher
  - RDBMS: Sybase Adaptive Server, Sybase SQL Anywhere

Candidates for the position should be able to function independently, demonstrate enthusiasm in their work, be self-motivated, persuasive, open-minded and objective. They should be able to communicate in English very well, both orally and written. They should also demonstrate organized, logical, focused and straightforward communication skills. The position requires field and overtime work in order to deliver outputs and meet Project deadlines.

JPN Japan Philippine Nameplate Inc.

IMMEDIATE HIRING
ECE (MALE / FEMALE)
(College Graduate)

Qualifications:
- Computer Literate
- With or without License
- Work experience not required
- Below 25 years old
- Good moral character and hardworking
- Willing to undergo training

Send your Resume / Application direct to JPN:
Address: Lot 9 Blk. 13 Cavite Economic Zone Rosario, Cavite
Tel.# : (046) 437-1714 / 17
Fax# : (046) 437-1713
E-mail : jpn@okane.skyinet.net
Contact person : Ms. Marie / Tina

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SALES & APPLICATION ENGINEER

- With relevant experience in technical sales or direct Engineering experience in semiconductor bonding for at least 2 years
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- Possesses good communication skills, hardworking, and able to work with minimum supervision
- Must be willing to be assigned in Baguio to closely monitor the company's TI account.

Interested parties may apply in person or send their application letter, comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, and recent ID photo to:

The HRD Manager
Small Precision Tools (Phil.) Corp.
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Requirements:
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- At least 5'3" in height.
- College graduate.
- Service-oriented and willing to learn new skills.
- Good moral character and presentable in appearance.
- Good command of English both oral and written.
- Mandarin and Cantonese speaking is a must.
- Smart and Enthusiastic.
- With high sense of responsibility.
- Willing to work on shift schedule, weekends and holidays.
- Computer literate.
- With general salesmanship ability.
- Experience is an advantage.

Please send your resumé with telephone number and ID picture to:

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Domestic Road, Pasay City, Metro Manila

AUTOVEYOR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

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- Can represent and communicate well with customer's top level management
- Exposure to selling in the economic zones will be a definite advantage

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- BSME/BSEE or BSECE graduate or undergraduate
- Male or Female, 21 to 28 years old
- Preferably with industrial selling experience of products such as motors, photoelectric sensors, electrical equipment, etc.
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Attractive compensation package awaits the qualified applicants.

Send your applications to:

Administration Department
Warehouse 1, VY Industrial Complex, E.Rodriguez Avenue, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No. 861-1504 / 20 / 44
Fax No. 861-2060
E-mail address: **apcsales@autoveyor.com.ph**

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3 ACCOUNTING CLERKS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Accounting graduate
- 21-28 years old, single, hardworking
- Computer literate
- Preferably with one (1) year experience with General Accounting or Auditing

Please apply in person between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, with bio-data, ID photo and transcript of records of available to:

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256 Doña Soledad Extension Avenue,
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Makati City 1212
or e-mail us at mktg@nbc.ph

CHF
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PROGRAM ASSISTANT NEEDED

The Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), an NGO with headquarters in the USA, requires a Program Assistant for its Philippines program in Manila. Must be fluent in English and Tagalog, computer literate, and have good project management abilities, Financial skills, conference organizing experience, and knowledge of housing would be considered assets.
Suitable persons should send detailed CV and letter of interest to:

Mail : CHF/Philippines
C/o APEX Business Center, Suite 910 West Tower,
Philippines Stock Exchange Bldg.
P.O. Box 12234, Ortigas Center, Pasig City,
Metro Manila 1605, Philippines

Fax : 632-9014 or 633-0751

E-mail: chfasia@info.com.ph

The closing date for applicants is Friday, March 9, 2001.

Please note that if the applicant is not contacted by March 31, 2001, they shall assume that the position is filled.

MANNING AGENCY to be established soon at Manila to recruit seamen for dry cargo and tanker vessels requires:

GENERAL MANAGER with good managerial skills and with good experience in related position.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT with adequate academic qualifications and experience in similar position.

DOCUMENTATION MANAGER/P.O.E.A. LIAISON with related experience and knowledge.

SECRETARY with excellent English and qualifications including computer word/excel etc.

Full C.V. with photo and reference letter to be mailed to:

P.O. BOX 13444, Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERS

Male, 21-26 years of age, Industrial Engineering Graduates, preferably with 1 year experience in quality or process control in a furniture manufacturing company. New graduates are welcomed.

ARTISTS/DESIGNERS

*BFA graduate - major in advertising Lay out artist of printed advertising, flyers, Streamers and the like. Single, with or without working experience

*BFA graduate - major in interior design
- Working knowledge of lay out design and Perspective
- Experience in showroom setting
- PIID member is an advantage
- New graduates are welcomed

Bring or send resumé, transcript of records and other credentials to:

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Tel. No. 456-73-95/96 (Contact Wilma Blanco)
email: filbed@pacific.net.ph

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For a

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This position is open to both male and female applicants.

Qualifications:
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- Familiarity with PELCO, PHILIPS products would be an asset.
- Must be extremely computer literate. Able to troubleshoot office micro-computers, install and set-up and troubleshoot software programs—Windows 98, Office 97, CorelDraw 9, Access and Internet facilities.
- Able to travel.
- Excellent written and oral English.
- Preferred age: 25-32

Fax resumé with photo at fax no. 818-5006 or mail at Room 104 Narra Building, 2276 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 1231.

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Electronic Technicians- Computer Electronics
Computer Engineers - 4-yr. Computer Course Grad.

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- Graduate of at least 2 year course
- At least 1-2 years experience needed
- Hardworking, willing to undergo training
- Must know Computer Assembly and Repair

For Our Administrative Department:

Computer Sales Personnel
- Must have experience in Computer Sales
- Aggressive, Smart, Willing to travel

(5)Accounting Staffs
- Female, Accounting Graduate; New Grads are welcome
- With or Without Experience, hardworking, trustworthy

Computer Graphics Designer-Web designs, Flash , Adobe Photoshop

e-mail to: jose@pinnaclensia.com or send to Ms. Angie Tuazon at
1st Flr Pinnacle Bldg., 50 8th Ave.West, Caloocan City 1400

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(TECHNICAL SUPERINTENDENT)

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Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumé through fax no. 527-3006 or through E-mail address: eastship@skylnet.net

or mail to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
EASTERN SHIPPING LINES, INC.
Anda Circle, Port Area, Manila

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- At least 2 years experience in handling Regional Distributors (preferably Regions 1,2,3) and major Supermarkets with FMCG
- Must have good oral and written communication skills
- Knowledgeable in MS WORD, EXCEL & Power Point
- Must possess a Valid Professional Driver's License

All interested individuals may mail their comprehensive resumé together with their transcript of records & a 2x2 picture to the following address:

ELDON Industrial Corp.
Lot 421 C-4 Katipunan Road
California Village, San Bartolome
Novaliches, Q.C. Tel. 4193816-20

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Qualifications:
- Fine Arts graduate
- Proficient in graphic design software such as Corel, Photoshop, Freehand
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Qualified applicants may personally bring their resume and 2x2 photo from February 19 to 24, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm to
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Dealer Marketing Officer

Qualifications:
- ✓ Male
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CITIBANK

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

February 25, 2001
Volume 13 No. 103

What Now?

Chavit Singson on Life After Politics

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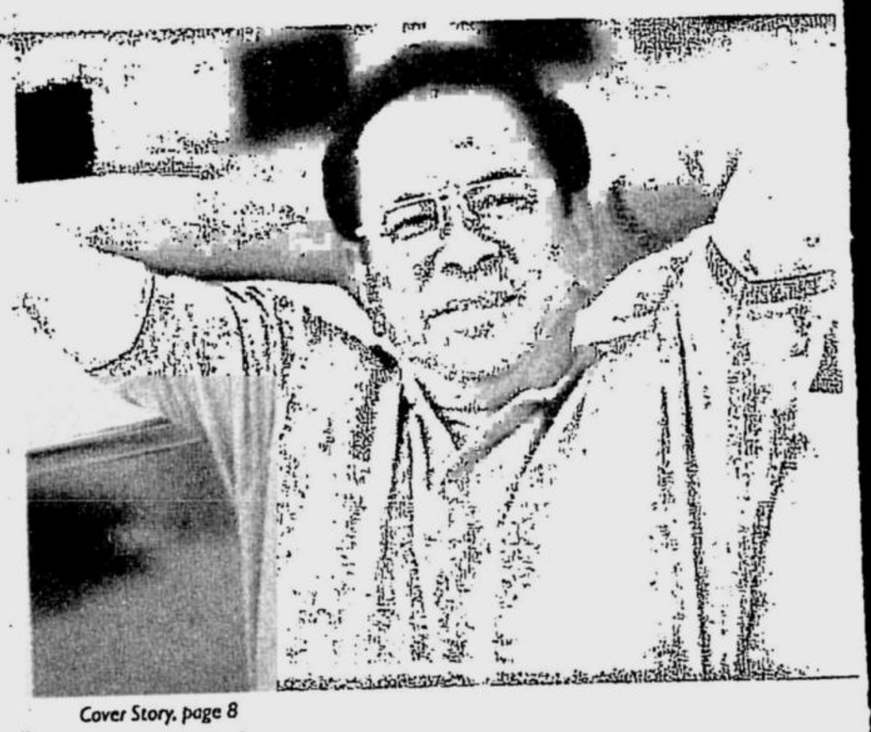

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The Cover Image Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, the nemesis and ultimate downfall of Joseph Estrada, kicks back and contemplates his future. *Cover photograph by Mandy Navasero*

CHEERS FOR JOKER

I guess I was just one of the many who e-mailed you asking for a feature on Rep. Joker Arroyo. And I'm glad you didn't let your readers down. The issue (Sunday Inquirer, February 4, 2001) now sits alongside other articles about Joker Arroyo which I have cut out from other issues of the Inquirer. More power to you!

KAYE SY
UP Diliman
jds <sevenseymour@yahoo.com>

NOT A REPAIR SHOP

Just bringing to your attention the mistake in research by your writer Nikko Dizon, on page 7 of Sunday Inquirer's Feb.4, 2001 issue. The landmark identified as a television and electronic repair shop named "Sunshine" is actually a television program production office headed by Ray "Butch" Gamboa. The shows they produce are "Motoring Today" which is two decades old, "Business and Leisure" and "Auto Focus." The Sunshine Television Ventures has been in existence for many decades. Simple research is a must for a good article, especially for a respected magazine like yours.

VINCENT AQUINO
<voaquino@yahoo.com>

UNCHRISTIAN?

The recent Sunday Magazine (Feb. 11, 2001) was filled with stories suggesting homosexuality. It's not that I am totally against homosexuality, but it would really help maintain our being a Christian nation if we don't publish articles about it. Publishing articles and stories about homosexuality may give our youth the idea that we are encouraging it, which I hope we are not. We are a Christian nation and by this, we hope to be respectful of homosexuals as persons, but let's stop at that. I'm sure the idea here is that we should try and make them understand their identity crisis and help them resolve it, but not encourage it. Let this paper be one which prints articles that can mold our youth into better persons and good Christians. Please don't print my surname and my e-mail address. Thank you.

M. C.
Via e-mail

Tita Swarding

Sunday Inquirer Magazine
Vol. 13 No. 103
February 25, 2001
ISSN 0116 - 232X

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THE SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808, locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail; sim@inquirer.com.ph

by Nikka L. Dizon
photographs by Johnny Villena

Long-time school pals Yael Buencamino and Candy Reyes have turned their passion into a successful business, but they're dead-set on keeping things fun and creative

Two Girls and a Bag

Yael and Candy name their creations after their friends. Here, "Tanya" reversible shoulder bags

IT'S TEMPTING TO CALL THIS PIECE "BAG LADIES" BECAUSE YAEL BUENCAMINO AND CANDY REYES HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TURNED THEIR PASSION FOR BAGS INTO A THRIVING BUSINESS. BUT THEY ARE MORE THAN JUST ARTICULATE, PRETTY AND ENTERPRISING LADIES MAKING A LIVING OUT OF SOMETHING THEY BOTH LOVE. TALKING TO THEM ABOUT THEIR VENTURE AND THEIR FRIENDSHIP BROUGHT OUT SIMPLE YET HONEST INSIGHTS THAT WOULD MAKE ONE THINK ABOUT ONE'S OWN PASSIONS AND DREAMS — AND HOW ONE HAS LIVED THEM OUT AS FULLY AS YAEL AND CANDY HAVE, YOUNG AS THEY ARE.

"Manong, maganda na kami, ha?" they both teased the Inquirer photographer after the pictorial. It was a Wednesday afternoon at the Third Floor, a cozy bags, accessories, furniture and furnishings shop located at, yes, the third floor of the Steaktown Bldg. on Makati Avenue. With its relaxing atmosphere, the Third Floor overlooks the infamous Makati Avenue traffic. This is also the new home of Ishq, Yael and Candy's bag line which is steadily gaining popularity among the young female crowd, as well as their boyfriends and suitors. In fact, right after the interview, a friend of Yael and Candy's saunters into Third Floor looking for — and finding — a bag for his girlfriend.

"If you want to go into business, it has to be something you really love, and not just to make money"

The pair is celebrating Ishq's first anniversary this March, and are obviously proud of their achievement without a hint of arrogance. In fact, they both express awe at the fact that they have grown the way they have in just 12 months. For one, Ishq — the Sanskrit word for "love" — can now be found in an honest-to-goodness shop, unlike before when Yael and Candy would sell their bags from the former's Makati home. For another, 27-year-old Candy gave up a stable, well-paying job as a PR and marketing executive at The Body Shop to concentrate on the business. A leap of faith it was, but certainly today, all worth it. "I was feeling fearless at that time," Candy says.

Friends and associates Candy and Yael

"I think I wouldn't have known if it was going to work or not if I didn't go into this full-time. *Kasi* it was always a sideline, and you really can't grow the business that way. It was now or never."

Ishq has also strengthened a friendship that goes back to high school at the Assumption. Both attended the Ateneo, where 28-year-old Yael studied Legal Management, and Candy, Business Administration. Their business partnership is going as smoothly as their friendship. While Candy takes a more active role in handling Ishq and Yael is still helping in her family's real estate business, they are both responsible for the total well-being, so to speak, of their venture. Nevertheless, Yael says of Candy: "I learned she's more driven and organized than I am. If not for her, the idea would have stayed an idea, I would've probably made bags but just for myself, for her." The day after this interview, Yael was leaving for the States. "She'll be away for a month and we're so used to seeing each other everyday," Candy says. *"Ihahatid mo pa ba ako sa* airport?" Yael asks — and both burst out laughing at the seeming mawkishness of the question. So would they call themselves the best of friends? Yael and Candy grin at each other sheepishly: "We guess."

Yael and Candy envision Ishq to be the choice when it comes to bags. "Come to think of it, there are no specialty bag stores here," says Candy. The classic designs, intricate embroidery, fun and bold colors make for a variety of choices. They make an average of 20 pieces per design to ensure quality, as the bags are all handmade. Both design the bags – and they have done extremely well, considering the fact that neither had any design or production background, although Candy says her friend's background in Asian Art, which Yael took in London, is also a big help. "She has an eye for detail and aesthetics," Candy says. Their bags are often featured in local fashion magazines, concrete proof that Ishq has earned the approval of ever-meticulous fashion editors.

To page 6

First Person
by J

Over the next seven days, we danced around each other with our text messages, sometimes playfully, sometimes seriously, but always implying that we were getting to be more than just friends

Diary of a Text Affair

LIKE MOST AFFAIRS, IT STARTED INNOCENTLY ENOUGH. TRYING TO REACH A STUDENT ASSISTANT WHO HAD A NEW CELL PHONE NUMBER WHICH I COULDN'T RECALL, I DECIDED TO SEND THE SAME TEXT MESSAGE TO COMBINATIONS OF NUMBERS WHICH I THOUGHT WOULD BE CLOSEST TO HER NUMBER.

Oct. 4, evening. "Is this your number, Rog? Ms. J." After three tries, I finally got the assistant's reply, plus another one: "Who are you?"

"Oops, sorry, wrong number!" I texted back. The following morning, I was surprised to find two more messages from my unknown texter: "Okay, Ms. J," and a morning prayer wishing me the strength to face the day's challenges. Touched by a prayer from a complete stranger, I texted back, "Thanks. God bless you, too, unknown friend."

(Editor's Note: We want to know what people are thinking these days. Tell us what's on your mind and in your heart. And no, you don't have to be under 30 or over 65 to contribute to this column. We welcome contributions from all ages.)

As I was savoring my morning coffee, my cellphone beeped once more. "Hi, I'm NNN." Out of courtesy, I texted back: "Thnx again, NNN, for being gracious about my mistake last night. Gud day!" and thought that that was the end of it, never imagining that my life would change soon.

NNN: Where r u?

J (me): Bacolod. U?

NNN: Manila.

NNN: How old r u?

J: 32. u?

NNN: You're 3210, I'm 3410.

Illustration by Steph Bravo

Over the next three days, our cellphones must have overheated and our fingers ached from all the texting. I know mine did. The messages came fast and furious. We learned about each other — that he worked in a travel agency, was 5'9", loved sports, had a dog and a cat, and was a dedicated Christian and a homebody. That I taught in a university, was 5'4", very fair, loved to read books and listen to music, and enjoyed my work very much.

I had to tell him one other important thing about me, though.

N: I'm still single.

I: I'm not. Will that be a problem?

It took a full five minutes for him to answer. "You bet!"

From then on, we knew that it was to be more than just a budding platonic friendship between us.

Over the next seven days, we danced around each other with our text messages, sometimes playfully, sometimes seriously, but always implying that we were getting to be more than just friends. He would text me late at night to tell me he couldn't sleep and ask me why. I would text him back to tell him it was the same case with me and that I was getting scared of where we were heading.

One morning at 3 a.m., after waking up to feed the baby and then checking my phone's battery charging, I decided to send him my morning message for the day, pleased at the thought that it would be the first thing he would read upon waking up. I was surprised, though, when he promptly texted back, "We'll do it tomorrow, *mahal ko* (my love), I am too sleepy now!"

"*Mahal ko*," he said? Although probably unconscious on his part, my heart sang at the revelation. Later in the day, I decided to reveal myself, too: "Good morning, *mahal*."

Our friendship plumbed a new level of intimacy. The teasing became so unbearable that, later that evening, after work and while in our beds, we made love with our words.

"Do you really love me?" he asked. Of course, I answered "Yes."

I was unprepared for his next question. "How about your husband?"

Still feeling giddy and lighthearted, I was light and casual in my reply. "I don't know...let's take it one day at a time. I love my family; I love you. Is that possible or am I too greedy?"

That must have set off something in him, for he texted back with a bombshell: "It cannot be and it isn't right. Maybe we should end this whole thing."

I was stung. It took me all morning to compose a suitably dignified reply, texted in five installments. "You're a hypocrite," I said. "From the very start, when I said that maybe we should stop this as this seems to be getting somewhere I'm afraid to go, YOU WOULDN'T STOP. Now that we've reached this point, and I'm not scared anymore — because I now know how to handle this—you've suddenly turned into a saint! But it's okay. You're right: let's stop this, now. So, I love you, but goodbye. Your coming into my life was a blessing; I'll always be thankful for that."

For the next two days, I was alternately numb and tearful. While driving or working, I would break into tears. People would look at me, and I would just blow my nose and say that I was coming down with the flu.

Every time the phone beeped, I would scramble to check. I seesawed between fits of rationality and impetuousness. I told myself it was all for the best, a blessing in disguise. If this hurt now, how much more would it hurt if it went on further? I was married, a mother of three very young children, and a university teacher at that. Pursuing an affair would only ruin my life. But then, I also told myself, if he called, I would apologize and make him change his mind. I love him!

Today, though, I prayed. I realized how blessed I was to have a happy marriage and family life, while so many others, like NNN, live their lives always searching but never finding what I already have. The boring routine I had started to take for granted with my husband was actually the haven of peace and belonging others would give their lives for.

I'd like to believe that NNN is basically a good and decent man. If he were not, he could just as easily have carried on our affair without any qualms. I'd also like to believe he really must have loved me to want all of me, or nothing at all.

So, today, for the last time, I texted him: "NNN? I just wanted to thank you for returning me to my family. YOU ARE A GOOD MAN. I pray now that God will bless you with the kind of love that you deserve. Take care."

Still, many times, I wait for the phone to beep.

Poetry

Camp Bushra's Mosque on Inquirer's Page One

In the morning light we traced
fuzzy lines of the hole in the dome.
Camp Bushra's bombed out mosque
on page one.

Unknown soldier unfurled
the sun and stars of our flag
to mark victory.
The crescent refused to marry
greater heavenly bodies and the freed
air whipped up the smoldering fumes
matching twin acts, triumph and despair.

Again in this age,
it matters if one reveres tree,
sun, cross or crescent.
Historians had proved,
the more seminal and godly,
the fiercer the war
a male thing, this, like shook
blueprint from medieval books.

Fighting men faced off, rosary to pasbi
at the Ramos Highway and Camp
where minutes before women-pilots set
the mighty conflagration -
a stab at tribal male pride.

Lead seeded farmers' fields
and in relief centers, mothers
dreamed forever not knowing
that beyond the bloodied ditch
lay bellowing and howling, howling,
brothers, sons and fathers.

August men's remorse is to restore
a symbol for the soldier's soul.
On that mosque, soldier found his fool
and we know, we know,
Eagle called Snake's bluff
and this Southern March is rising
without need for brick or stone.

Christine F. Godinez-Ortega

Pagkatapos ng Tag-Araw

Marahil, ganito ang mabuhay nang malubha:
banayad ang pagpatak ng ulan sa lupa,
matapat tulad ng madaling-araw sa Mayo,
ay gigising ako't ang tanging maririnig
sa ulirat ay ilang daang ulit na paglisan,
kung paanong tuwing magbabantang dadalaw
ay hindi ko pa makasanayan, gaanong katahimik
ay pagpilas pa rin sa laman, hindi magamot,
hindi mahuhugasan ng tubig, dumarating
ay tila lalong hindi ko aabutan ang pagsambulat
muli ng init at kulay at halimuyak sa paligid.
Napupugto ako gayong natitighaw ang langit.

Rebecca T. Añonuevo

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine is accepting contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed a copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

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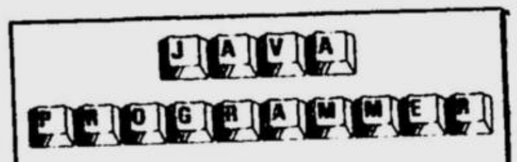

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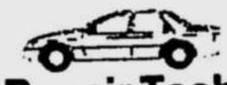

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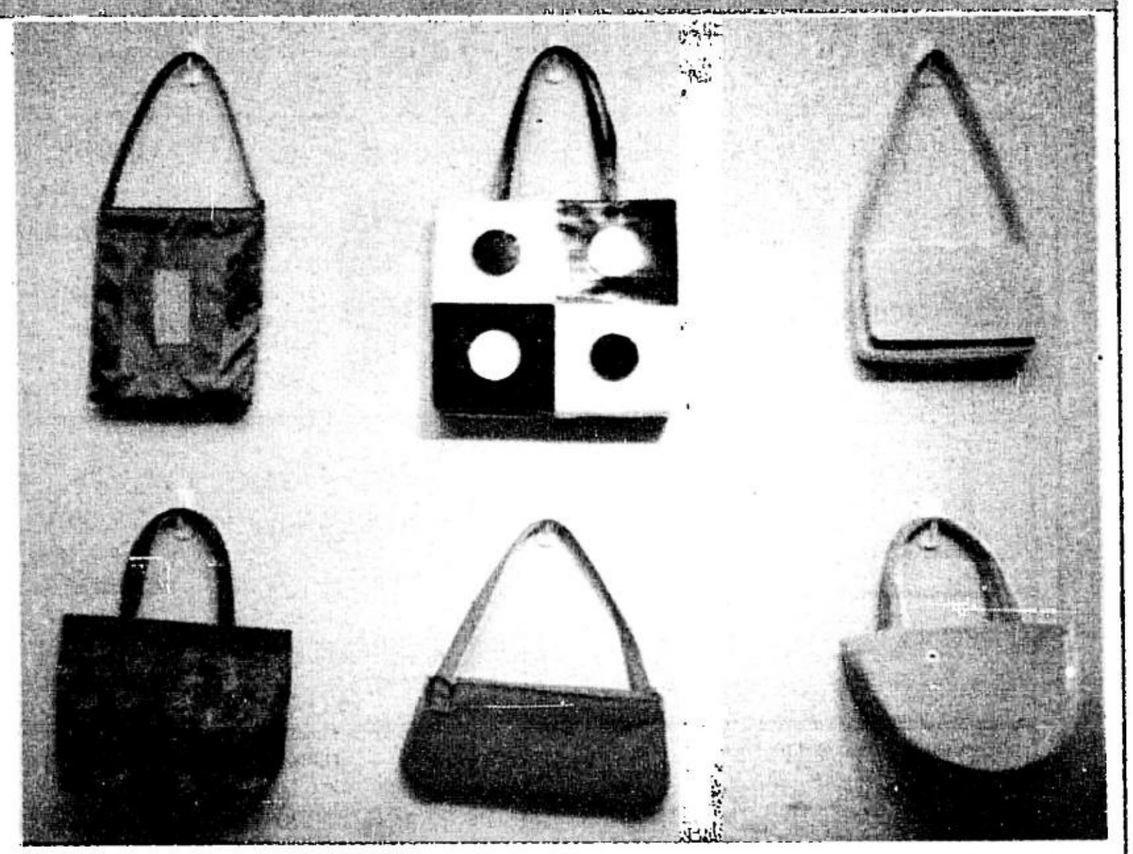


Left to right, top row: "Pipay" purple patchwork bag; "Celluch" black and white patent bag; "Richie" lime green patent shoulder bag. Bottom row: "Asha" purple handbag in shantung with gold embroidery; "Russia" khaki shoulder bag with red strap; "Orange" orange patent handbag

Certainly, Yael and Candy have big dreams for Ishq. "Sounds ambitious, but we want to be sort of the choice when it comes to bag," Candy giggles. They are also thinking of supplying bags, even if just in small quantities, to specialty stores in the States that consign international brands. They have been asked to try exporting their bags, but when they saw the requirements, both felt the work it would entail would take the fun out of the business. "You'll put in so much time and at the end of the day you're not enjoying what you're doing," Yael explains. "And this is why we went into this. This is what we like to do. If you want to go into business, it has to be something you really love, and not just to make money. We always thought: if we don't sell the bags, then at least we'll have lots of bags for ourselves!"

Candy adds that they don't put too much pressure on themselves. In fact, she says, they don't want to hard sell Ishq — it has to be a pleasant discovery for every customer who visits the store. "We don't want it to be so commercial," Candy says. "We put a premium on customer service. They see us here at the store. We try to remember the names and the faces of our customers, what they like." Customers also sign a guest book so the pair can text or e-mail them whenever there are new bags coming in.

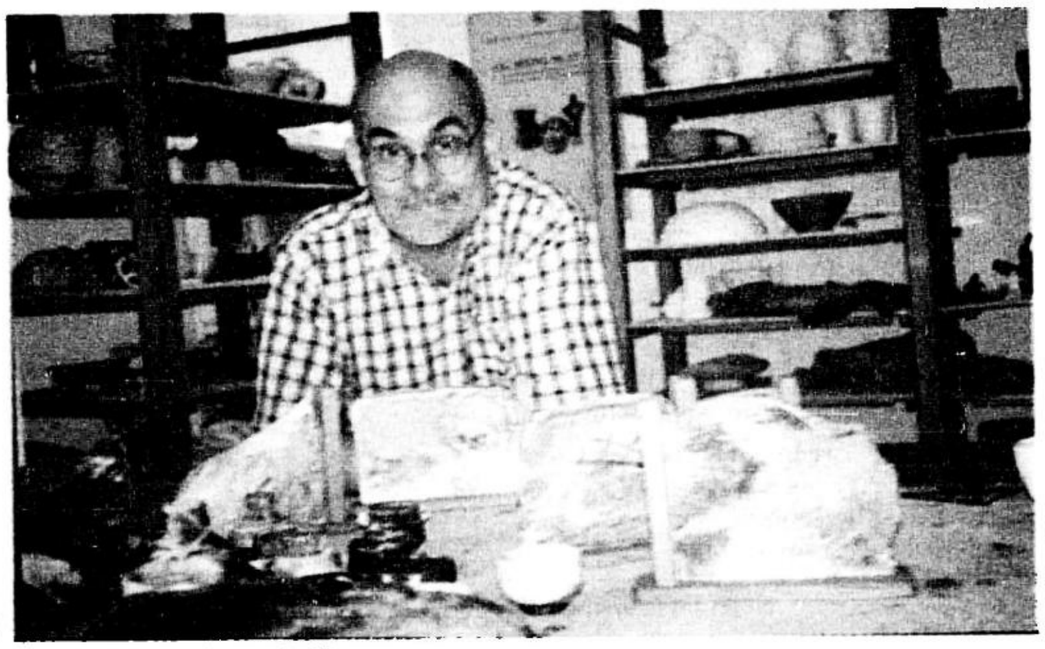
"You can do anything," Candy now says, looking back at the year that was for Ishq. "It really feels like that. If you put your mind into something, you can do it and it doesn't even take that much. It's okay to start small. We started in a house. We didn't realize it could grow in just a year."

"Jane" satin handbags with embroidery

Noteworthy

Pot Luck

How do you fit hand-sized pottery and a clay mural inside a scapular?



Pettyjohn: Making art for everyday life

WHEN JUDY FREYA SIBAYAN, ARTIST/ART CRITIC/CURATOR AND THIRTEEN ARTISTS AWARDEE, STARTED HER SCAPULAR GALLERY NOMAD WITH A POUCH HANGING AROUND HER NECK, SHE KNEW SHE WAS VENTURING ON A MISSION: BRINGING ART TO THE MASSES. AND THAT SHE DOES, WITH GRAPHIC DESIGNS, POETRY, MUSIC COMPOSITIONS, PHOTOGRAPHS, FILMS, PRODUCTION DESIGNS, CERAMICS AND OTHER ART FORMS HAULED OUT FROM HER SCAPULAR POUCH AND EXPLAINED TO FELLOW PEDESTRIANS, SHOPPERS AND BYSTANDERS. SO FAR, SIBAYAN HAS CARRIED ON HER CHEST ARTWORKS BY CLAUDINE SIA, FERNANDO MODESTO, BADONG BERNAL, LUCRECIA KASILAG, AGNES ARELLANO, LAO LIANBEN AND NEAL OSHIMA.

This time around, she's exhibiting some 40 of Jon Pettyjohn's clay pieces in what could be a literal pain-in-the-neck exercise.

Size was initially a problem, agrees Pettyjohn, a Fil-Am born in Japan who relocated to the Philippines in 1976 to rediscover his roots. "Scale is a sensitive issue for potters because most pottery is quite small and there are those who insist that pottery cannot have real power or presence unless it reaches a certain size, like two feet."

At the same time, Pettyjohn realizes that as a tactile and intimate form, pottery must be touched and handled to be appreciated. The scapular show was an exercise that helped him resolve the dilemma, he says. "I see now that the whole idea of scale is really all in the mind," he notes. "After all, when we look at photos of ceramic works in books, we really have no idea how big or small the object actually is until we read of its real dimensions in the caption."

Pettyjohn and wife Tessy have been experimenting with their own clay and glazes for more than 20 years now, and have focused on Asian-influenced traditional pottery on the belief that "function is the root of all crafts." Explains the potter: "We believe that art is not only found on walls or in museums, but should be part of our most ordinary and routine acts like drinking from a cup or eating from a plate."

It's an idea echoed by the Scapular Gallery, where art becomes as common as walking and as casual as conversation. Well, not exactly. Sibayan wears a canvas vest with several pockets that cradle Pettyjohn's palm-sized pottery six at a time. She also trundles a bag to carry the artist's mini-murals, each measuring 10-12 inches across with its wooden base. "This is the heaviest load I've had to exhibit so far and they're a bit unwieldy," admits Sibayan, "but the advantages are obvious. I take the pots out and let people handle them. Tell me, can you do that if the pieces were in a gallery on a shelf?" **PAC**

Pettyjohn's pottery can be viewed until Feb. 28 through Sibayan's nomad gallery, phone/fax number 525-1246 or email clajfs@dlsu.edu.ph

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While distilling fresh algae, two French scientists discovered a substance that activates metabolism and makes one slimmer. As you may have read in the papers or seen on television, when metabolism is activated, the body burns the excess fats that are stored in it.

Find out below how you can receive Spirulina treatment for a free trial. And why you can lose 3 kilos per week without strict dieting. Even if you eat so much.

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Authentic proofs

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"Six kilos lost in one week. It works like a miracle."

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What is surprising is that you begin to get thinner even within the first days of this treatment. You lose (depending on your body makeup) between 3 and 4 kilos per week, and regularly...

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You may therefore try it out even out of curiosity because you don't risk losing anything... even a single peso. Send us back the *No-Risk Free-Trial Coupon* below right now before you forget all about it.

When they saw how I got thinner, they couldn't believe their own eyes.

... "My husband used to abandon me; he was ashamed of my body figure."

... "Today, I am comfortable with my skin and feeling more attractive."

"It was after a chance meeting with a physician's wife that I succeeded in losing 20 kilos while continuing to eat as usual. She explained to me that she had gotten thinner thanks to this treatment. And without dieting. I told myself that it wouldn't ever work for me. Nonetheless, I tried, perhaps out of curiosity. I took a capsule in one glass of water at noon and in the evening. On the fifth day I went up on a weighing scale: the needle pointed 79 kilos. In short, I had lost 4 kilos in just 5 days. Yet, while eating as usual as I was used to.

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3) You officially guarantee that Spirulina is a 100% natural product based on algae and contains no chemical or pharmacological substances.
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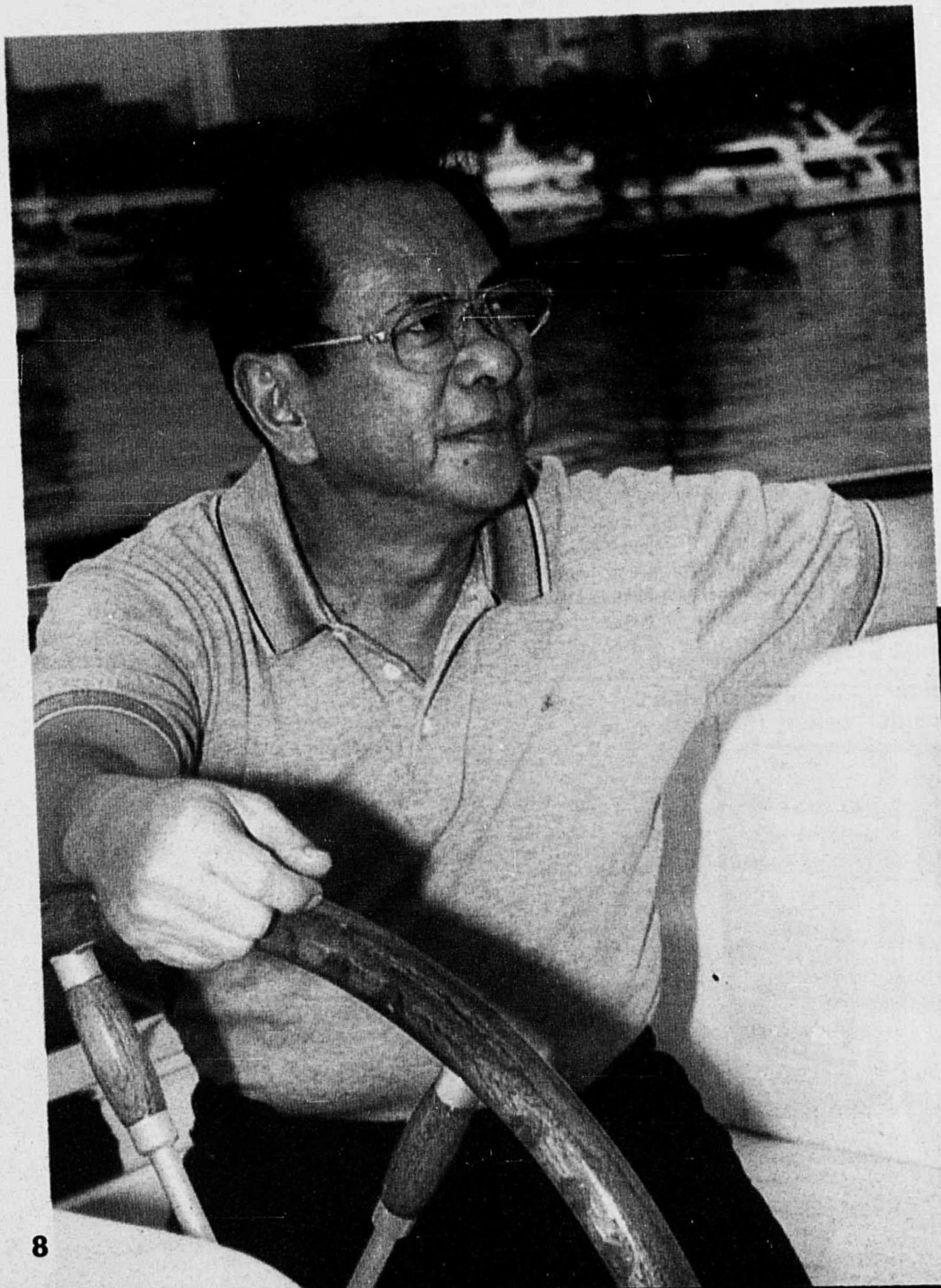
* Of not paying anything if you don't lose all your excess weight.

by Fe B. Zamora
photographs by Mandy Navasero

On board his yacht Escalera, *an ironic symbol of the excesses he blew the whistle on, The Man Who Started It All declares he has had it with politics. SIM catches the controversial and candid Luis "Chavit" Singson in an unguarded moment*

Resting On His Laurels

WHEN YOU SET AN APPOINTMENT WITH LUIS "CHAVIT" SINGSON, YOU GO AND SEE HIM ON TIME. CHAVIT ARRIVES ON THE DOT. TWO MEN FOLLOW HIM LIKE FAITHFUL SUBALTERNS, WHILE A YOUNGER MAN HOVERS AROUND WITH FOLDERS AND A DAILY ORGANIZER. CHAVIT STOPS TO SURVEY THE BREAKFAST CROWD AT THE MANILA YACHT CLUB. THE WAITERS RECOGNIZE HIM – YOU CAN FEEL THEIR EXCITEMENT – AND SO DO ABOUT A DOZEN GUESTS AND CLUB MEMBERS.



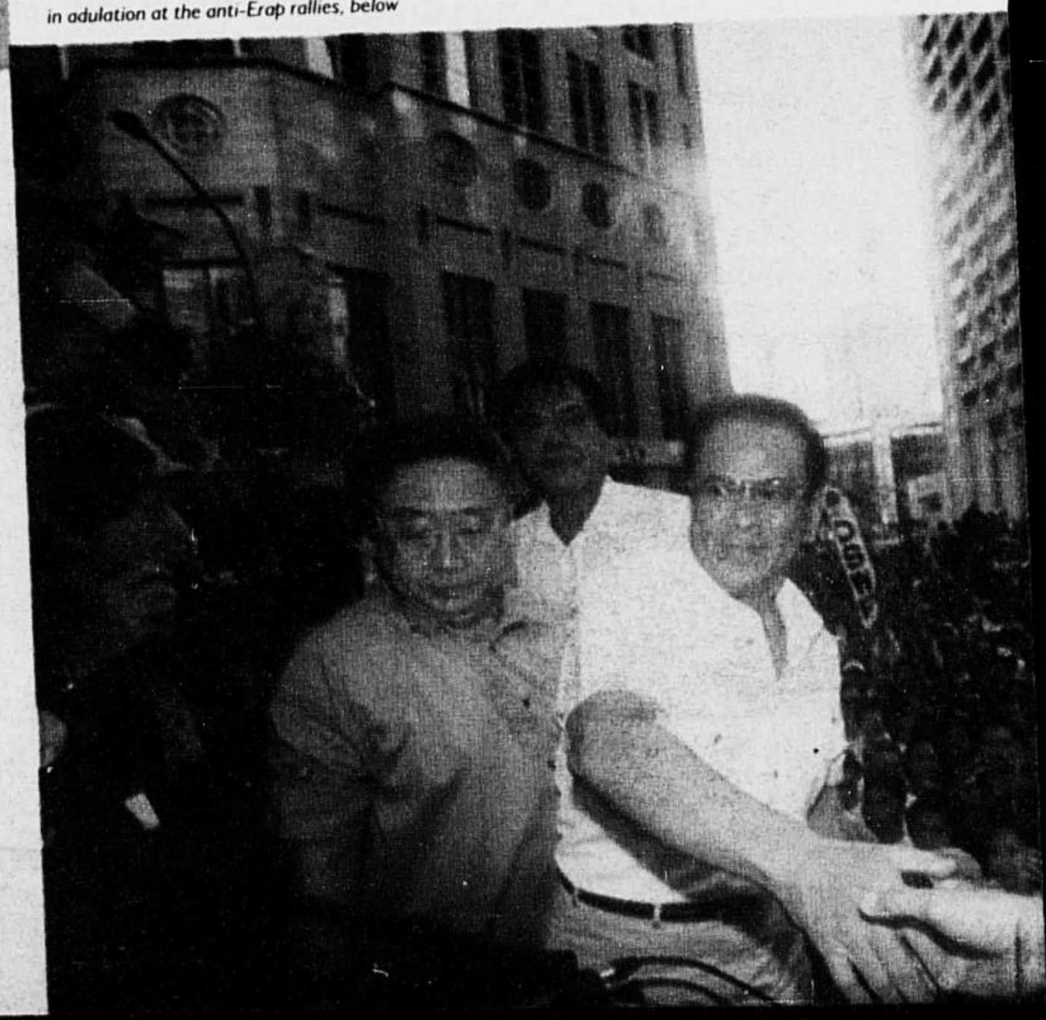
Chavit moves around offering breakfast to his companions and friends. He comes cool in white cotton polo and khakis, but looks disheveled and bored. Still, there is something about Chavit that hints of a life lived in danger, and the foreboding sense that greater danger lies ahead.

But this morning, Chavit looks harmless, even meek. "Are we going to have a pictorial now?" he asks. He says he has just arrived from Ilocos. "I haven't taken a bath," he worries. *"Nangangamoy ako, baka mahalata"* (I smell, they might notice).

Chavit says he had a long day in an Ilocos meeting with local politicians. He says he has had enough of politics and politicians. He wants out, but worries about what his political enemies might do. "They will take advantage of my retirement," he says. His immediate worry is who will take his place as governor of Ilocos Sur. He is considering the vice governor, but there seem to be hitches. *"Maraming gustong pumapel. May mga nagsasabi, hindi ho, mas magaling ako doon. May nagsasabi, tumakbo na lang daw ako. Eh ayoko…"* (Many want to make an impression. Some are saying, I'm better than the other guy. Others are saying I should just run. But I don't want to…)

It's not to say Chavit's world is limited to Ilocos. In the euphoria of Edsa 2, he was also offered the position of secretary of interior and local government. He declined. But like a magnet, he seems to attract hundreds of applicants for various positions in and out of government. Proof? Those seeking his favor have followed him to the Yacht Club. And his two cellphones never stopped ringing throughout the interview. Chavit spoke to them in English, Ilocano and Pilipino.

In control at the wheel of the Escalera, left; basking in adulation at the anti-Erap rallies, below



Over a game of mahjong: Chavit on his yacht, now for sale, left; Escalera's plush interiors, above

He sounds exasperated, in fact. "In politics, people want you to say yes to everything they ask. Hindi *naman pwede*. In politics, *mapaligaya mo 'yong isa, 'yong isa hindi*" (You make one person happy, you disappoint another).

He also hates the muckraking that goes with the partisan nature of local politics. "I get frustrated because there's a lot of unfounded character assassination," he mumbles. "*'Yan, binabanatan na naman ako ng* Inquirer (the Inquirer is hitting me again). There are 600,000 or 700,000 people in Ilocos, and they interviewed the two people who are angry at me." He pauses. "It's a good thing I'm not as bad as they say I am. Otherwise I would have killed them all!"

To kill or be killed, that was what Chavit said one day in October when a traffic patrol stopped him in downtown Manila allegedly for using an emergency siren. Sensing an ambush, Chavit stayed inside his bombproof van and called instead on Ilocos mayors who were holed up at a nearby hotel. The mayors arrived in a jiffy and escorted Chavit to the nearby Western Police District station.

At the station, Chavit said he had had the police siren for two years, but never had the police accost him. And on the night he was stopped by the police, the questionable siren was not even in use. So what was the violation all about?

A survivor of six ambush attempts, Chavit maintains that the alleged traffic violation was just a ploy to get him out of his vehicle. In the open air, Chavit would have been fair game. The previous month, Chavit had prepared an affidavit accusing his friend, then President Joseph Estrada, of accepting P200 million in protection money from gambling, and of pocketing P130 million from the tobacco excise tax allocated for Ilocos Sur. They were once the best of friends, but Chavit felt betrayed when Erap gave the franchise of Bingo 2 Ball (the legal version of *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game) to his arch enemy in Ilocos. For Chavit, that was unforgivable.

"Pinaasa niya ako, 'yon pala wala din" (He made me hope, but for naught). Chavit says. Two days after the traffic incident, Chavit went all-out in his media war against Erap, a battle which ended, as we all know by now, with Erap's disgraceful departure from Malacañang on Jan. 20, 2001.

Looking back, Chavit says: "I have burned my bridges (with Erap), but it's not over until he is convicted. *Pag sinimulan ko, tatapusin ko. Wala aking tinatakbuhan*" (If I start something, I finish it. I don't run from anything). *"Si Erap binabaril sa pelikula lang, ako sa totoong buhay* (Erap gets shot at in the movies, while I do in real life). *Sanay ako sa* pressure, *siya hindi."*

But he admits feeling pity for his erstwhile mahjong partner when he saw the embattled president wobble out of the Presidential residence to the barge that took him across the Pasig River. But the sympathy turned to scorn when he heard Erap claiming the presidency.

"He has not changed," Chavit intones. "He still says his conscience is clear, that he did not steal a centavo, that he is not Jose Velarde. *Eh bukung-buko na nga, nagsisinungaling pa rin* (He's been caught red-handed, but he's still lying). How can you pity him?" Chavit maintains he didn't know Erap as Jose Velarde or by any other name. "All I know is that he has a lot of money, but he kept wanting more. He was not contented."

Greed, he says, was Erap's downfall. That's why he could never blame Mark Jimenez, Jaime Dichaves, Charlie "Atong" Ang and other presidential pals who followed in his footsteps and ratted on their friend Erap. "You cannot blame them. Erap never treated his friends well. All he wanted was money. He never cared about his friends. He just used them."

Chavit corrects the notion that Erap was a victim of friends who abused the friendship. "It was Erap who abused us. For instance, this Mark Jimenez. He has a proposed bill he wants approved. He goes to Erap. He goes to the President, and tells him, here's the bill, here's the money. Erap takes everything, and you're on your own.

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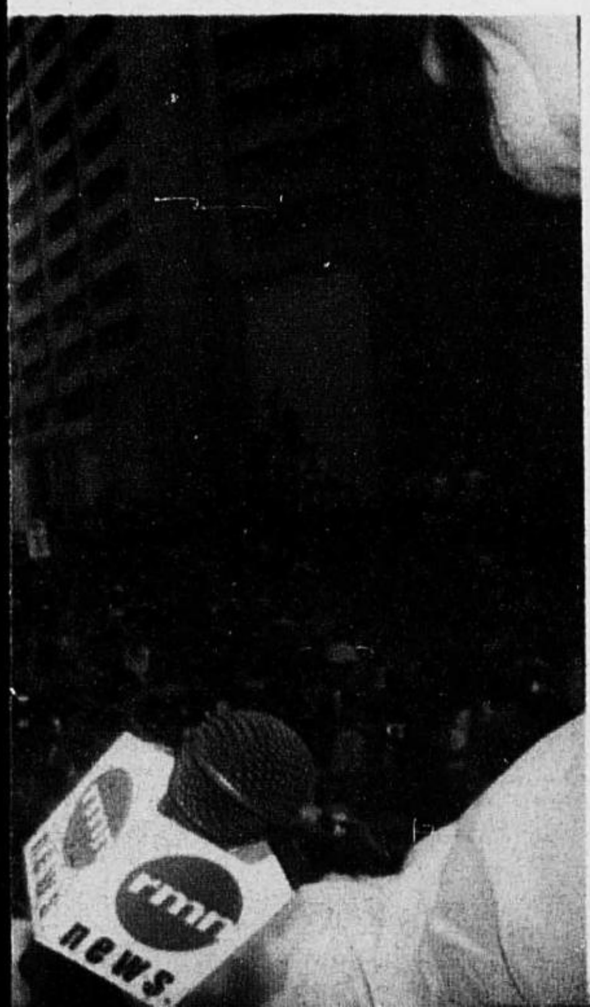


Their World

by Anton San Diego

Juampi and Laura Bertotto

JUAMPI AND LAURA (VERALLO) BERTOTTO'S ROMANCE HAS ALL THE ELEMENTS OF A MOVIE – A HANDSOME LEADING MAN, A PRETTY WOMAN AND A GREAT STORY. EVERYONE KNOWS, THOUGH, THAT A GREAT MOVIE HAS TO HAVE CONFLICTS. WHEN THEY FIRST MET, THEY DIDN'T EVEN LIKE EACH OTHER. HE FOUND HER OPINIONATED AND SHE FOUND HIM ARROGANT; IT WAS HATE AT FIRST SIGHT. BUT AFTER A CHANCE ENCOUNTER IN BORACAY, AFTER SOME TALKING AND LOWERING OF DEFENSES, FIRST IMPRESSIONS CHANGED AND THEY GOT ALONG. END OF STORY? NOT QUITE.

Juan Pablo or Juampi hails from Argentina; he was on a one-year trip backpacking around the world when he met Laura. He decided to stay in Manila for reasons of the heart, and started work with the help of good friend Doris Ho. She helped him get a job, first at the Armani store, then later an internship at ING Barings. Laura, who had just finished a five-year BA and MA at Brown, was on sabbatical for six months. Somehow they knew that this was not how it would be; she had a job waiting for her in New York and he had a job at ING in Buenos Aires.

When it was time for both to leave, they thought the relationship would just end. Somehow neither could let go. He said, "What are we going to do with us?" They separated for a while, but met up again when Juampi's flight had a stopover in New York en route to Argentina. From then, they had a long distance relationship for close to two years, which would see them shuttling back and forth between Argentina and New York. Laura resigned from her job to pursue a Ph.D. in ethnic studies at UC Berkeley, and Juampi followed, working with the head office of Bank of America in the same city.

Through their hectic schedules, emotional roller coasters, mileage points and defenses, they realized they were meant for each other.

He proposed to her in 1998, and a year and a half later they had a civil wedding in Argentina, in December 1999. They had a church wedding in Manila. Both are quick to say that they are not religious people, but the church ceremony sealed what was in their hearts. "It solidified us," say the couple, now married for over a year.

"Never let yourself believe that your self can be defined or approved by another."

Laura is the general manager of VMV, a popular and successful cosmetic and skin care line. Juampi is AVP and senior sales advisor for Bank of America. Both are co-owners of a trendy and hip store at Rockwell called Al Estilo De, and are also responsible for the export of VMV to the US, New Zealand and Southeast Asia.

For two people who are opposites, the fact that they lived on different sides of the globe and still ended up together is amazing. Some would say it's fate; I think it's pure magic.. Conflicts, hard as they may be, make our life more interesting. As for Laura and Juampi, who have known each for over six years, they didn't think that they would end up right where they started—back here in Manila and with each other. What about the kids? Now, that's for the sequel.

This is Their World.

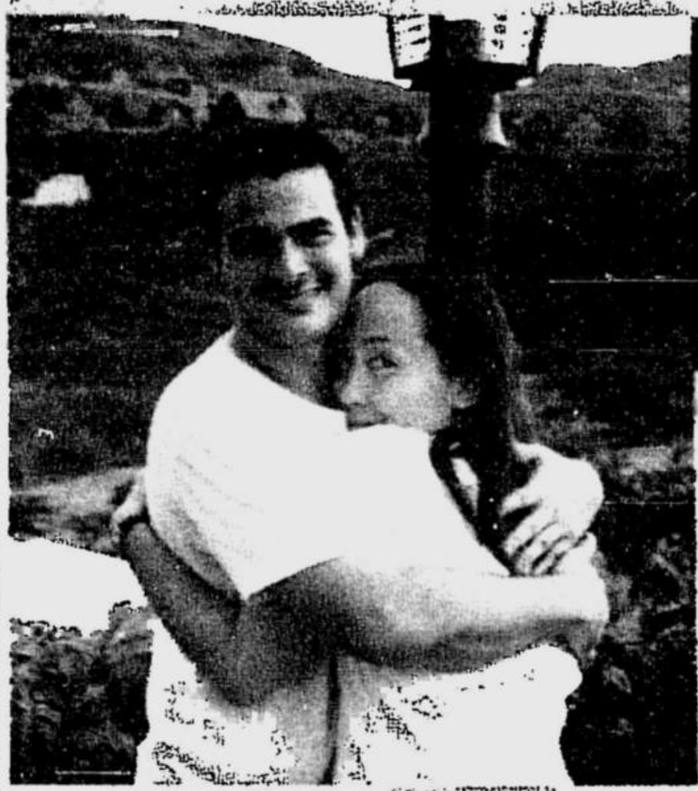
Morning ritual?
Laura: Hear Juampi say, *"Buen dia,* how did you sleep?" I sometimes have nightmares. Let the cat in, jump in the shower with my hubby, nothing sensual, just a nice way of starting the day.
Juampi: Nothing special, take a shower with Laura, nothing sexual, just a good place to chat then go to work. At some point in the morning I need to get a cup of tea.

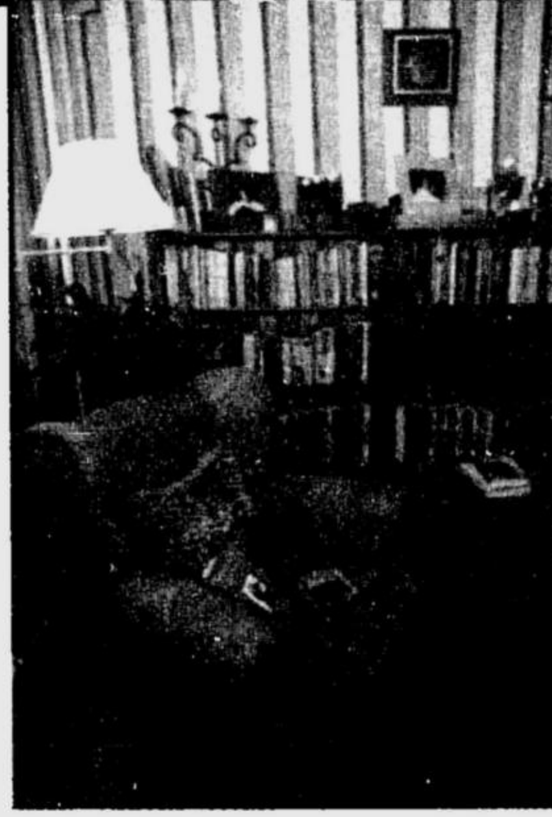
What book are you reading now?
L: "The Darker side of Renaissance" by W. Mignolo
J: I am in between books right now, I just finished *"La Hija de la Fortuna"* by Isabel Allende

Favorite part of the day?
L: Daybreak, if I can bring myself to catch it.
J: Dusk, that moment when the sun finally goes down but it still is not dark. Nature acquires a special stillness at that time. There is a calculated silence as nature stops for a moment before continuing its cycle.

Greatest extravagance?
L: My books! Tons of them!
J: Books, though not in proportion to what Laura buy. Also, I like going to posh restaurants.

Define happiness.
L: Your spirits. God and you.
J: Being at peace with who you are.





Clockwise, from left: Juampi and Laura in Argentina; sealed with a kiss: during their civil wedding in Argentina; post wedding madness: "We partied till 7 a.m. The Argentinians know how to have fun"; home corner with wedding picture and candles; the dining room; what they like to read

Interior photographs by Betoy Johnson

First ambition when you were young?

L: This is dicey: To be James Bond, Voltes V's Jaime (she was the foot driver) and a veterinarian. Preferably all at the same time.

J: I wanted to be a "Sandokan"—a very famous pirate in a book written by Emilio Salgari. He was a good pirate, but terrible with his enemies, and had endless adventures.

Best thing your parents ever taught you?

L: My mother once said to me that I could not be defiled unless I let myself be. That has saved my emotional life and my mind on many occasions.

J: That everybody deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, without exceptions.

Greatest fears?

L: Being mediocre. Failing to live up to my ideologies, to the thing I believe in. Hurting people I love. Roaches

J: Failure, especially in dealing with obstacles and problems in life.

If you could go back in time, what would you advice yourself to do or not do?

L: Never let yourself believe that your self can be defined or approved by another. Any other. Besides being very painful, it can be very dangerous.

J: I would advise myself not to be lazy and take each and every opportunity to do something new. I have never regretted when this happens, regardless of the outcome.

What are the weaknesses you fall prey to?

L: Demanding the same standards I have set for myself from other people. I can get rather self-righteous in this regard. Letting myself feel guilty (not pensive or self-examining) for some of the choices I've made in life.

J: Insecurity, laziness and an unnecessary avoidance of confrontations.

Who would you have liked to be?

L: Che Guevarra, El Haj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X) or Rigoberta Menchu. Spiritual, revolutionary souls.

J: Diego Maradona, though not his personal life. The things he did on the soccer field were out of this world. On a less frivolous note, Gandhi. He never compromised his beliefs and had no need for violence in effectively defending them. That takes a lot of courage.

What/who inspires you?

L: People who give up creature comforts to pursue what they truly value in life, like helping end oppression, racism, homophobia and unjust patriarchy and neo-colonialism. I know it sounds rather contrived but I admire this tremendously. It's very brave.

J: Laura and people who are true to their ideals and don't compromise no matter what.

What's one thing you don't have that you wish you had?

L: The ability to sleep for 10 minutes a day and feel completely rested.

J: The ability to speak many languages. It would be so cool to speak 40 languages, imagine what you can learn.

What relaxes/upsets you?

L: Relaxes: meditating, good long talks with friends. Upsets: Ignorance, especially when manifested in strong opinions and inconsiderate people. Unfair fights, cruelty and the I-can't-believe-they-still-exist hate-isms and phobias (e.g. racism, sexism, ageism, etc.)

J: Relaxes: Getting out of the city, places where there are few people. Getting a back rub from Laura. Upsets: Seeing kids suffer, most compelling evidence that in this world, the innocent ones always end up paying for the mistakes of the rest. Dealing with bureaucracy and uncooperative people

What's better than sex?

L: Nothing!!! Have you met my hubby? The intimacy derived from sex is really something. Freud said that the body is the seat of the unconscious. So much can be communicated between your bodies that you could never speak of, that your Ego isn't aware of.

J: I thought a whole day of skiing in powder snow, but then I met Laura. Now I think that only the intimate moments after sex are comparable.

What do you think is your greatest achievement so far?

L: Sanity. Learning to be light-hearted. Having found my center.

J: To have been able to grow out of many if not most of the typical attitudes/beliefs/clichés that boys or men fall prey to.

What is your greatest legacy?

L: I shall leave Wallace (their cat) courage, the strength to face new things, the backbone to face weekly baths bravely and yes, to enjoy them in spite of himself.

J: I ensured that my siblings would become fans of Indepediente, a soccer team of which I am a fan of. I am trying to do the same for Wallace, but am having some trouble as he is not much into soccer.

How do you overcome obstacles and problems in your life?

L: Breathe. Meditate. Get back to the center. Stillness. Then I try to let go and let things come to me or let the right way pass through me. Sounds hokey, but this has pulled me through some major difficulties. My journal also helps, but meditation is really key.

J: I am easy-going and adaptable. This helps me when I find myself in a complicated situation. I go with the flow, not forcing things.

An event in you life that has taught you an important lesson?

L: The most traumatic thing that ever happened in my life taught me to value myself.

J: A trip after college around the world for a year. It broadened my views on life, taught me to rely on myself and be flexible, and that you don't need a lot of material things to have a great time. It also proved beyond reasonable doubt the advantages of long hot showers.

The greatest teaching you have learned so far from life?

L: It sounds awfully simple, but charity starts at home and other well-worn clichés. If I had to live by one rule that would be it. Even love for other people and humanity has to stem from that. There can be no external love without internal love. You can never heal without self-love and we all need healing, continuously.

J: That there are no absolute truths. Therefore you have to respect everybody's views because your opinions might be wrong.

For comments pls. e-mail asd_world@hotmail.com

The Writer's Life
by Varsha S. Daswani

For one who makes it her business to expose the dark secrets of erring public officials, investigative journalist Sheila Coronel remains reticent about herself

Larger Than Life

"I NORMALLY DON'T GIVE PERSONALITY INTERVIEWS BECAUSE I'D LIKE TO STICK TO THE WORK SIDE OF IT," SAYS SHEILA CORONEL UP FRONT. INDEED, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM (PCIJ) FOR THE PAST 11 YEARS WOULD QUICKLY STEER BACK THE CONVERSATION TO HER WORK WHENEVER IT VEERS OFF TOWARDS PERSONAL MATTERS. SHE'S OBVIOUSLY MORE COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT PCIJ, WHICH SHE STARTED, ALONG WITH OTHER FOUNDERS, IN 1989.

"We'd love to do a story on the still unresolved murder of former Sen. Ninoy Aquino, but that will take a lot of work. And we're a small organization with with limited resources"

A petite woman with a seemingly harmless air, she doesn't strike you as an investigative reporter who has uncovered countless cases of corruption in government in the last 22 years. That is, until she starts talking and her flawless English catches you off-guard. It is as if her thoughts are so lucid and logical that they are meant to be committed directly to a computer screen as an impeccable article, where editing would be superfluous.

Coronel did not always see herself as a journalist, however. With a cum laude in Political Science from the University of the Philippines, she was all set to pursue Law. But her involvement in the campus paper and eventual contributions to magazines opened up journalistic opportunities, and she joined Panorama after asking herself, "Why not?" She stayed on for three and a half years and then joined the Manila Chronicle. Three years later, in 1989, she and her colleagues left their jobs to form the Center.

The aggressive step Coronel traces to the tension building up in the Chronicle newsroom because of "problems with management." The reporters, who had wanted to pursue certain stories, felt that management did not fully support them and concluded that "the only way we could do those kinds of stories was to put up our own agency independent of newspapers." The founders were unsure of their decision, Coronel recounts, but were reassured by the thought that if the Center did not work out, "we could always find employment in newspapers." The group started out in a borrowed room in a Makati office, with only three desks and a second-hand typewriter. Since they could only afford to pay one office assistant, Coronel volunteered to oversee the business side of the Center. Her relatively steady income from her contributions to The New York Times made volunteer work possible. "It was more by default," she says of her leadership role in the organization.

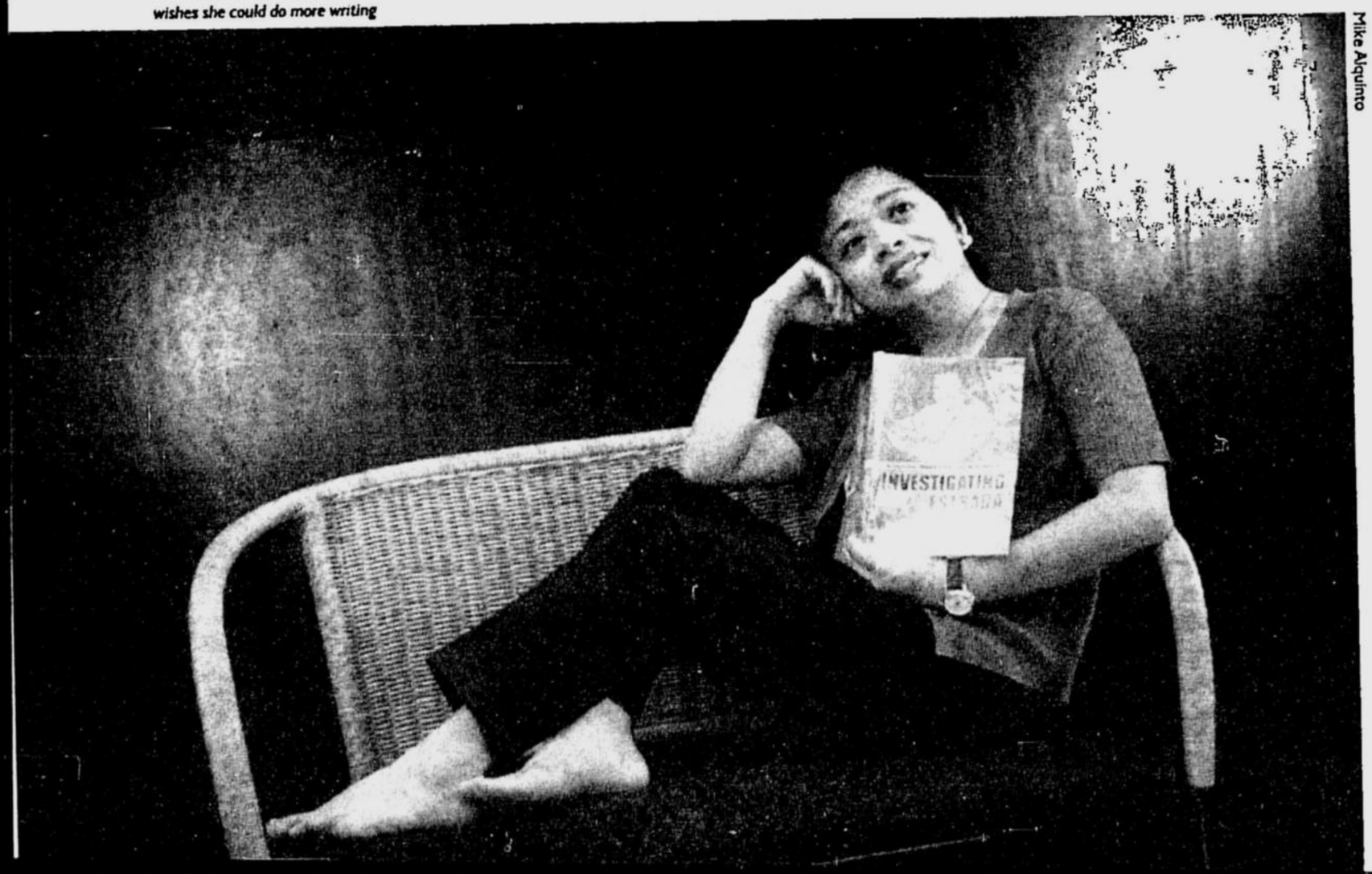
"Journalism is a form of public service," says Coronel, although she admits that the lean earnings from the profession and the overwhelming work difficulties prompt one to look for "a higher purpose" in maintaining the Center.

"The main objective of PCIJ is to promote investigative journalism, and that objective remains," she states unequivocally. Among the issues that the Center has tackled are government anomalies, hypocrisy in the media, discrimination of women and the destruction of the nation's natural resources. Coronel explains that the Center has sought to "make people better citizens by making them aware (of issues) and by providing information that empowers (them)."

A nonstock, nonprofit organization that depends mainly on private foundations and donors for funding, the PCIJ has published more than 15 books and produced more than 180 articles that saw print in different broadsheets. The in-depth and informative pieces rely heavily on human sources and documentary proof. Interviews are backed up by a paper trail that can withstand scrutiny before the exposé is made.

Although the Center has sometimes been criticized for its negative reports, it is also seen as an indispensable arm of truth. Indeed, the new government owes much to the Center, whose reports last year on President Estrada's mansions helped trigger public outrage. Thanks to PCIJ's spadework, several documents became part of the Articles of Impeachment which, unfortunately, never saw the

Dreaming on: Between administrative chores, Coronel wishes she could do more writing



Mike Alquinto

light of day. Among these were a record of the 66 corporations that Estrada supposedly co-owns as well as mansions and properties he has gifted his mistresses.

The exposés on Estrada are only the tip of the iceberg. Long before investigative reporting became fashionable, the PCIJ was already dipping its toes into political grime. "People have resigned because of stories we did," says Coronel. "Government policies have been changed because of stories that we did. People say they've lost elections because of stories that we did." She is quick to clarify, though, that even if the Center has caused specific changes, "we don't want to take credit for the state of society."

It may be too early to determine the impact of investigative journalism, but it cannot be denied that the PCIJ's work has contributed to raising the people's level of understanding and awareness of political and social issues. And as if to confirm its future, the Center's executive director rattles off her wish list and long-term goals: become self-sufficient; expand the Center's training, broadcast and marketing arms; use the Internet as an effective tool for investigative journalism; produce a text on investigative reporting, and maybe a journalism manual later. In terms of stories, Coronel says with a hint of exasperation, "There are a lot of stories that can be written that aren't written."

Though investigative journalists do not have to deal with the deadline constraints of a daily broadsheet and can spend months working on a story, they must still look at a viable time frame. The Center would love to do a story on the still unresolved murder of former Sen. Ninoy Aquino, "but that will take a lot of work," says Coronel regretfully. "We're a small organization with limited resources and we cannot afford to put one person on a story for a whole year." Maybe in the future, she adds wistfully, when they might have the facilities and finances to do more in-depth stories.

Despite its various awards, the Center acknowledges that it is not the only investigative body around. Newspapers and the broadcast media have started forming their own investigative teams and doing their own special reports. "I think that (the) field is wide enough for everybody," says Coronel. They do not see themselves as better than others in the field, but they would like to share their expertise by holding seminars to train fellow journalists on the techniques of investigative reporting. "We think we have something to share, something that people can learn from."

Aside from being PCIJ executive director, Coronel is also editor in chief of i magazine, the investigative reporting magazine of the Center, and has edited quite a number of PCIJ books as well. Though she is a writer first, she admits that her administrative duties sometimes restrain her from doing more writing and editing. Whether it be meeting deadlines, managing the budget, representing the Center, conducting training, writing e-mail, returning phone calls or signing checks, Coronel usually works a full and stressful day. She tries to finish her administrative chores before lunch (she usually comes in late in the morning) and tries to write or research in the afternoon. She is one of the last to leave their office every night.

Happy to be where she is and grateful for having gotten this far, Coronel adds one more to her already long wish list: "I just dream of having more time to write," she says, "and eventually unload some of the administrative work of the Center."

Such words leave one with the unshakeable impression that the Center is in the heart of Sheila Coronel, and that in turn, Sheila Coronel is at the heart of the Center.

COVER...from page 9

Even the one who does the dirty work doesn't benefit."

There are lessons to be learned from Erap. This is one thing that Chavit wants people to take heed of. "A good leader must be sincere in serving the people. He should not allow power to get to his head. He should keep his feet on the ground. He should learn to be contented. *Hindi sa iyo ang mundo. Kahit magkanong kitain mo, hindi mo madadala sa itaas pag namatay ka* (The world isn't yours. No matter how much you make, you can't take it with you). Learn to enjoy life.

"I'm happy-go-lucky," he says in comparison. "*Kung mayroon, mayroon. Kung wala, wala.*" This attitude he learned from childhood. "I'm used to money. *Parang walang* value. Maybe that's my mistake, but sometimes it's an advantage because I'm not greedy. *Pag may pera ako, ginagastos ko lahat*" (When I have money, I spend it all).

"When I was in college here in Manila, I lived in a hotel. We had our house, but I was with my *barkada*. And we lived in hotels!" Some relatives were in politics, and that's how Chavit got into it. "It happened by chance. The Singsons were feuding with our relatives, the Crisologos. I was in my 20s. Some people were caught in the crossfire. So I helped them. *Ganyan ako, bata pa ako, pag may kaibigan ako na naapi ako ang nakikipag-away. Napapaaway ako sa hindi ko kaaway*" (Ever since I was young, if a friend of mine was persecuted I would fight for him. I would be fighting people who weren't my enemies).

And so after nearly 30 years in the mad, mad world of politics, Chavit is now ready to throw in the towel. His immediate plans include writing a column for the hard-hitting Pinoy Times. He was recently appointed government consultant on *jueteng* and other forms of gambling. It's a one-peso-a-year appointment which Chavit has accepted purely for public service. He really wants to put an end to *jueteng*.

If he has time, maybe, just maybe, he will also play mahjong.

There are also the social obligations. For the record, Chavit has become the most sought-after party guest since January 20. Name any Thank-God-Erap-Is-Out-Of-Our-Lives victory party in Forbes and Dasma and any other posh subdivision, and chances are Chavit was there.

He says he shuns women now, but of course, one never takes such declarations seriously. "Actually, *bakla ako*" (I'm gay), he deadpans. And who is your boyfriend? "*Si* Erap, hahahaha!" He will never tell you how many children he has and by how many women, although sources say a passion for women is one thing Erap and Chavit will always share.

Whenever he can, Chavit hies off to the Manila Yacht Club to entertain friends and check up on his yacht, the 85-foot *Escalera*, which makes him a bona fide member of the exclusive MYC. Chavit is reluctant to hold a pictorial on the yacht for fear it might spark another controversy. But since the yacht is up for sale – "for security reasons," he says – he thinks it might just be a good opportunity to advertise the product.

The spanking blue-and-white luxury vessel has five bedrooms, a bar and a jacuzzi. It's fully carpeted, has centralized air-conditioning with rich wood panels and elegant interiors. It also comes with a speedboat and a jet ski. It travels at a speed of 23 knots. Cruise time from Manila to Ilocos would be about 18 hours; a trip to Hong Kong would be about 38 hours. The yacht is made in Italy, but Chavit bought it from a corporation in Hong Kong for a song—or shall we say over a game of mahjong?

Chavit says they—that's him, Erap, Mark Jimenez and William Gatchalian—were playing mahjong one night in Malacañang when somebody mentioned a yacht that was up for sale in Hong Kong. The price: P50 million. The owner was bankrupt and had to sell the yacht.

Chavit and Mark agreed to buy it 50-50. "So I gave P25 million, but Mark lost that night. *Sabi niya, bayaran mo na muna*. So I paid P50 million." A brand-new yacht of the same model would cost a hefty P200 million.

"Find me a buyer," he says as he shows off the yacht to visitors. He smiles, that unmistakable Chavit Singson smile that Pinoys are bound to always remember, no matter what happens to him next. "*Bibigyan ko kayo ng balato*" (I'll give you a commission).

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Idol

Since a "shepherd" is also a teacher, we are reminded that the teacher cannot teach what he does not know

AN "IDOL" IS ONE WHO HAS BECOME THE OBJECT OF YOUR INTENSE DEVOTION AND ADMIRATION. YOU ADMIRE YOUR "IDOL" PERHAPS BECAUSE HE OR SHE LOOKS GOOD OR SINGS WELL OR PERFORMS WELL ON STAGE OR IN THE MOVIES, OR BECAUSE YOUR "IDOL" HAS BECOME RICH, FAMOUS AND POWERFUL, OR BECAUSE HE OR SHE TITILLATES YOU MERELY AS SOMEONE WHO IS CUTE, SEXY AND COOL.

Since idol-worship (like having a "crush" on someone) is an emotional trip, according to psychologists, you may end up as a fanatic or a certified psychopath if you are not careful.

Out there are political and entertainment managers, and media practitioners, who get paid to create "idols" out of their "talents" (or election candidates). When they succeed, you end up as a blind and brainless follower or fan of an assortment of "idols" who have no moral ascendancy to govern your heart.

Do you have a religious person (pastor, priest or evangelist) for an "idol"? Or a teacher or "spiritual adviser" to whom you have entrusted the ministry to guide and direct your heart in your day-to-day pursuit of wisdom, godliness, goodness, peace and happiness in this life? What might have attracted you to your "idol" who now happens to be your "shepherd"?

Since a "shepherd" is also a teacher, we are reminded that the teacher cannot teach what he does not know. We cannot allow an atheist, for example, to teach us about God any more than a computer-illiterate can teach us about computers. In the sphere of shepherding and teaching about life and living, Jesus warns that no teacher or shepherd can lead his followers beyond the point which he himself has reached. Jesus exhorts us to choose only those who have the moral ascendancy to shepherd and teach because they and only they can lead us farther on. "Can a blind person lead another blind person?" Jesus asked. "Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like the teacher." (Lk. 2:39)

Pastors, priests and evangelists are morally vulnerable in this regard. They can collect a coterie of loyalists and fans who "idolize" them for a variety of reasons: because they are eloquent preachers or indefatigable church-builders, or because they are charismatic "hyphenated churchmen," i.e., churchmen who are also career and corporate geniuses, aggressive businessmen and fund-raisers, shrewd politicians, or simply convivial ballroom dancers and court jesters.

Your pastor or parish priest may have received enviable awards for his many skills and successes, but that's no proof that he has the compassionate, forgiving and prayerful heart of a man of God.

In Lk.6: 43-45, Jesus points to the good tree bearing good fruit and the rotten tree bearing rotten fruit. The "good fruits" of a good shepherd (pastor, priest, evangelist) are not merely the list of accomplishments on his citation plaque or trophy, but his simple and hidden acts of benevolence and solidarity with those who needed his shepherding: feeding a hungry beggar at the gate, speaking affirming words to a victim of gossip, welcoming a homeless stranger, listening patiently to the sad story of a lonely and ailing Lola. These silent gestures, according to Jesus, come from the "good tree," the heart, where the spirit of God works despite our perceived "badness," despite our frailties and stupidities. It is in that secret space in our heart where the spirit convicts and converts us, and through us (your pastors, shepherds of your soul, your "idols"), He empowers you, too, to change and transform your life enough for you to become shepherds, teachers and witnesses for others. "Role-models" sounds more sensible.

Never allow anyone to call you "idol" from now on. Tomorrow you might flop. Or someday you might no longer look good or smell as good as the day your devoted fan first met you. God and only God is the one we adore. And be sure He's the right one, because you'll become like the god you adore.

Feb. 28 is Ash Wednesday. March 4 is the First Sunday of Lent

Illustration by Steph Bravo

This Week

Art

Patibong ng Puso, exhibit by Ugu Bigyan, Julian Odi, among others, at Liongoren Gallery (111 New York St., Cubao, QC). Till Feb. 28. For details, call 912-4310/4646.

Hope: The Botanical Session of Dominique James, exhibit by Dominique James at The Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Ayala, Makati City. Opens March 6 and will run until March 24. For more details, email cecille@fillib.org.ph

Jürgen Freund's photo exhibit and audiovisual show on Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m. The Filipino Bookstore (Tipunan, F. de la Rosa corner Katipunan Road, across Gate 3 of the Ateneo de Manila University). For details, call 899-4246/48/49. Exhibit will run until the end of March.

Forms and Textures, an exhibition of contemporary studio pottery by Nelfa Querubin at the Lobby of the Vargas Museum, UP Diliman, QC. Till Feb. 28. For details, call 920-5301 local 7407 or 7408.

Julian Odi's sample pots now on exhibit at Liongoren Gallery, Quezon City, till Feb. 28

Libog opens the "Who Owns Women's Bodies" (or WOWB) exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Bulwagang Juan Luna (Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City). Presents new works that deal with sexual and reproductive rights by artists including Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Julie Lluch, Jose Tence Ruiz, Tita Lim, among others. Till March 31. After its CCP stint, WOWB travels to Davao and Cebu later in the year.

Music

Catch the **Corrs** at the Araneta Coliseum in March. Presented by Jag Jeans and Nokia. The Irish band popularized the songs "Only When I Sleep," "Radio," and "I Never Loved You Anyway." Watch out for ticket details.

Traditional New Year Concert at Mandarin Oriental. To be held Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m., at the hotel's grand ballroom, the concert features two of Austria's finest musical artists—soprano Isabella Ma-Zach and conductor Ernest Hoetzl—with Filipino tenor Jonathan Malicsi and the 40-piece Philippine Chamber Orchestra. Features the compositions of waltz king Johann Strauss and some well-loved Filipino melodies by Lucio San Pedro and Felipe de Leon. Tickets can be purchased at the hotel's Lobby for P2,000. For details, call 750-8888.

For this week's bands and schedules call:
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Pinoy Agonistes, Tanghalang Pilipino revives People Power at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino or CCP Little Theater, March 2, 3 and 4, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Written by Nick Joaquin, the play stars Apa Ongpin, Ronnie Lazaro, Richard Joson and Tessie Tomas. Directed by Nonon Padilla. For details, call 436-8486/4181.

The Kultura Center for the Arts of the University of Asia and the Pacific-Office of Student Affairs presents its 4th Annual Kultura Play, Eugene Ionesco's **How To Get Rid of It**. Directed by Tinette Villanueva, onstage at the Telengtan Hall, APEC Communications Building, UA&P Ortigas Campus on Feb. 28 and March 2. Gala performance on March 24. All shows start at 7 p.m. For details, call 637-0912 local 280 or 635-0529, or email tina@uap.edu.ph.

Tirik, a play directed by Soxy Topacio, featuring Leonardo Litton and Allyson VII Gonzales, onstage Feb. 27 and March 6 and 13 at Mr. Melody Bar and Restaurant (75 Roces Ave. corner Scout Santiago , Quezon City). For details, call 415-0373 or 374-1361.

Film

Still Lives, digital film by Jon Red. Starring Joel Torre, Ray Ventura, Nonie Buencamino, at SM Manila, one of the featured films in *Pelikula at Lipunan*, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m.

Atbpa

Filipinas Heritage Library presents the following activities: **How safe is the Internet?** Here is your guide to net savviness. The Library hosts a brief session on ways to turn your kid's ride in the info highway into a fun and informative one! Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m., at the FHL Reading Room. Speakers are Therese Ng and Petite Gaces of Summit Interactive. Admission is P75 only. **Writing for Magazines**. Find out what it takes to write for leading Filipino magazines from Myrza Sison and Eric Ramos on March 9, 6:30 p.m., at the Reading Room. Admission fee is P75 only. No use hiding in the shutters. **Wear your heart on your sleeve and read that love poem** you've been keeping in your drawer. On March 16, 6:30 p.m., the Library and the UP Creative Writing Center host the third annual open-mike poetry reading contest at the FHL Courtyard. Established writers will judge that piece you will read (so bring five extra copies!) and in case you don't win his/her heart, you just might win our prize. Admission fee is P100 for readers, P50 for hecklers. Get one free beer. For details, send an email to mabi@fillib.org.ph

The Adoptive Families Foundation holds **The Whys and Wherefores of Telling**, 1:30-5:30 p.m., March 3, at the Center for Family Ministries Building, Ateneo de Manila campus, Loyola Heights. The forum features presentations by family counselors and personal sharing by adoptive parents and adoptees. For details, call 454-7670 or 927-6448.

As part of UP Diliman month, the College of Education presents **Kapihan sa Benitez**, a dialogue with Quezon Hall Colloquy with the University of UP Diliman's Officials tomorrow from 9 to noon at the Benitez Theater. Invited guests are UP Vice President for Academic Affairs M. Diokno, University Chancellor E. Roman, Vice Chancellor A. Guevara, Vice Chancellor D. Bongga, and others. This is followed by Talas-Ulo sa Kolehiyo (mental cocktails with the officials of the UP Administration) at the Lobby, 3:30-5 p.m. Blessing of the new offices such as Asean Training Center for Preventive Drug Education; Curriculum Studies Office; Model Science Interface Laboratory on Feb. 27, 4 p.m. *Kolaborasyon sa Edukasyon*, Feb. 28, 9-11 a.m. at the Benitez Theater. Speakers are from the Commission on Higher Education. Teacher Education Council, and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. For details, call The Office of the College of Education at 929-9322; 920-5301 local 6907 or 6255.

Ballet Philippines presents its **Eighth Neo Filipino Series**, "*Samasama:* Video and Dance," an artistic collaboration among filmmakers, videographers and choreographers like Denisa Reyes. March 1-2, 8 p.m., at the Dance Forum Studio-Theater, 38 West Ave., QC; March 9-10, 9 p.m., at the Republic of Malate, 1769 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila.

Food

Visit the Café Coquilla and the New Patisserie of Holiday Inn Manila and grab an order of **New York Plus** available now from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. It comes with a complimentary glass of soft drink.

X-manila

Déjà vu, exhibit by Vivien Virata, at the Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll (Campo Sioco, Baguio City). Till March 21. For details, call 442-4602/4926.

Cotabato City National Arts Month. Till Feb. 28, Cotabato City features Maguindanao *pandala* (decorative flag) painting and outdoor exhibit, *layang-layang* (kite) festival, *tula-dulaan* in English and Filipino and art fair. For details, call (064) 421-2221.

Arts Council of Iloilo Foundation Inc. presents **The Diary of Anne Frank** by the Iloilo Theater Company, March 1, 2 at Cap Auditorium, Gen. Luna Street, Iloilo City. For details, call (033) 337-0204.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera

ENVIE

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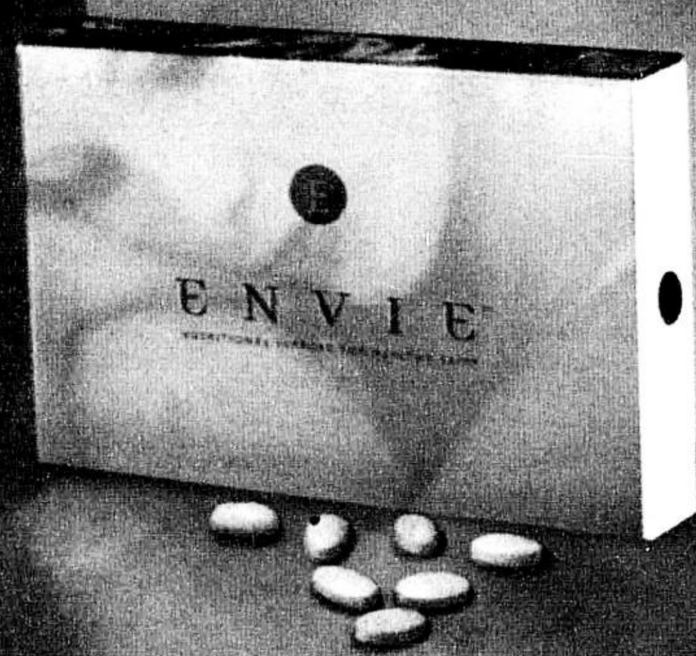

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